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LEGION

MAGAZINE

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LEGION

Magazine

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The Dunk Test.

LETTERS

> TO THE EDITOR <

Letters published do not necessarily express the policy of The American Legion. Keep letters short. Name and address must be furnished. Expressions of opinion and requests for personal services are appreciated, but they cannot be acknowledged or answered, due to lack of magazine staff for these purposes. Requests for personal services which may be legitimately asked of The American Legion should be made to your Post Service Officer or your state (Department) American Legion Hq. Send letters to the editor to: Letters, The American Legion Magazine, 720 5th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10019.

DE GAULLE, FRANCE AND THE U.S.

SIR: I have long been an admirer of General Charles de Gaulle and the one-sided and sometimes downright malicious attacks against him and his policies have never dented my high esteem for him as one of this century's truly great statesmen. I could not agree more with your assessment of the General's statesmanship in relation to "Our Troubles with France" as published in the January issue. I wish that it might have a wide circulation as an illustration of clear, well-stated journalistic objectivity of which we Americans are now in greater need than ever before.

JOSEPH CONRAD FEHR
Rockville, Md.

SIR: Re: "Our Troubles with France." Whom do you think you are kidding? Isn't it a little cold out there in that snow job you are working so hard to put over?

HERBERT L. GIBSON
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SIR: I was greatly encouraged and enlightened by the article. It affords helpful reading when the Legion, whose veterans have twice fought and bled to protect a beleaguered sister republic, can print such a reassuring defense of President de Gaulle's administration. As a veteran of WW1 and WW2, I have been again and again irritated when this otherwise astute statesman uttered insults against the United States. I was somewhat comforted to think that he is an old man and must soon relinquish the leadership of France. After reflection upon this helpful article and the amazing accomplishments of the President of France, I find myself hoping that he may be permitted to hold his office for the stormy years which lie ahead.

REV. PERCY M. HICKCOX
Plympton, Mass.

SIR: I want to compliment both the magazine and Leavitt A. Knight, Jr., for the article "Our Troubles with France," and it is my hope that many, many Legionnaires will read it.

ERNEST CAHA
Pryor, Okla.

SIR: The article was well written and seems to cover about everything. I



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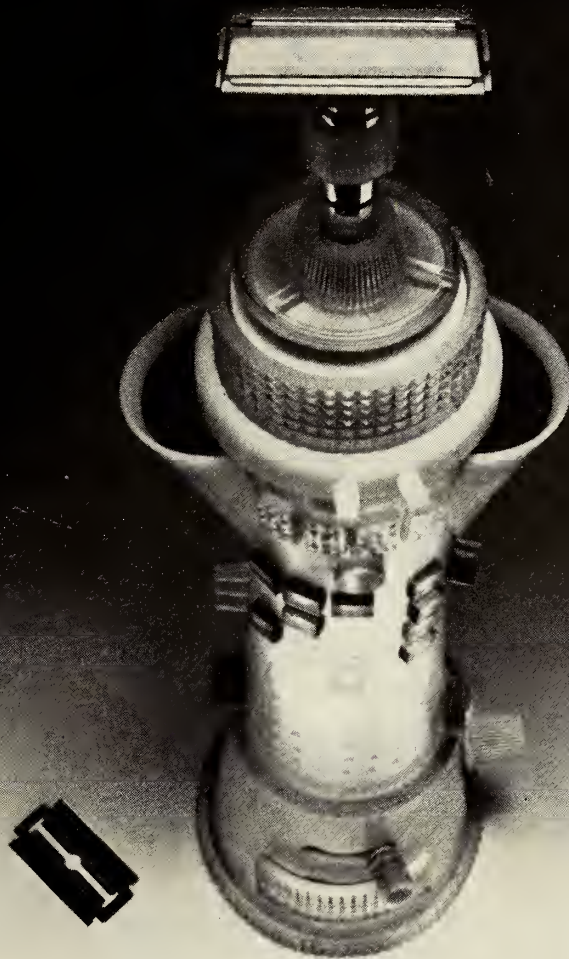
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FRENCH NATIONAL RAILROADS



CONTINUED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

thoroughly agree, as President Nixon has remarked, that "we should lecture less and listen more."

PAUL HARLAN
Richland, Iowa

THE GREAT GOLD RUSH

SIR: Thank you for the excellent article, "The Great Klondike Gold Rush of 1897" (January). I find this article and other similar articles published in your magazine to be very helpful in teaching my American history classes.

MRS. MARY E. LARKIN
Ithaca, N.Y.

SIR: The Klondike gold rush story was one of the best ever appearing in our magazine. I enjoyed it from beginning to end. In addition, I got quite a kick at the reference to Dawson's stage presentation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Little Eva's escape across the ice." Actually, it was Eliza Harris, with her little son, Harry, who escaped across the ice over the Ohio River between Kentucky and Ohio. Little Eva, according to the book, lived in Louisiana where there was little, if any, ice.

ALEXANDER E. WYLIE
Mendota, Ill.

Oops.

PANAMA CANAL GIVEAWAY?

SIR: In your October 1968 issue you published an article entitled "Are We Going to Give Away the Panama Canal?" I have read many articles and heard many people speak about this question. However, these writers and speakers may not have given the subject the proper title, as you did. You swept away all the smog and, in clearing the air, exposed the facts. Whatever your source of information, it was certainly authentic to the smallest detail.

JAMES F. BURGOON
Sarasota, Fla.

RED HABITS

SIR: Congratulations and thanks for your December cover article, "The Violent Habits of the Soviet Union." It was most informative and revealing. I only wish you had more than two and a half million circulation.

JOHN E. BOISSEAU
New York, N.Y.

SIR: The article should be put in small pamphlet form and distributed everywhere. It is great.

MILTON VAN ZANTEN
Portland, Ore.

SIR: After the Berlin Blockade, the Wall, Cuba, Vietnam, hijacking and the *Pueblo*, why would the Russians hesitate to do anything? We invited this. If there is a bully on the block and you cross the street to avoid him, you have invited continual harassment. He will continue

EDITOR'S CORNER

NAME DROPPING IN LEGION HISTORY

AS MARCH 1969 is the precise 50th birthday month of The American Legion, a great deal of this issue is a nostalgic look back at the Legion's first year.

We review in it the first caucus, the second caucus and the first national convention, all within a period of eight months in 1919 during which the Legion grew from an overseas idea to a going Stateside organization with a paid up membership of nearly 700,000.

In our sketch of the Paris Caucus on page 10 we give some intimation of the remarkable abilities of the group that met in an informal, disorganized and often contentious atmosphere in Paris on March 15, 1919, and in three days produced a sort of miracle.

We did a little bit of name-dropping in our Paris story to reveal how many of the men connected with the meeting were nationally prominent sooner or later, men such as Wild Bill Donovan, Alexander Woolcott, Harold Ross, Ogden Mills, Franklin D'Olier, Monroe Johnson, Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., Bennett Champ Clark,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

to embarrass and humiliate you until you face up to him. It's time we quit crossing the street.

JACK LA HART
Lake Placid, N.Y.

SIR: The article should be read by every campus radical who believes that the Communist movement is dedicated to the eradication of social injustice. The present Soviet system is actually the antithesis of the utopian society that present-day radicals profess to be striving for. It oppresses the workers and peasants. It represses intellectualism and fosters militarism. In sum, the Soviet system is fascism painted red.

ARNOLD WEINER
Memphis, Tenn.

SIR: The article deserves widespread publicity and particularly the affair of the Kronstadt sailors. The author is especially to be commended for bringing this long suppressed story to the public's attention.

N. F. McNAUGHTON
Houston, Tex.

INFO SOUGHT ON U.S.S. MOUNT HOOD EXPLOSION

SIR: I am seeking information about the U.S.S. *Mount Hood* explosion in Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island, on November 10, 1944, and would like to hear from any shore-based or shipboard personnel who know about it, especially those who were there and actually witnessed it. Please contact:

DALE P. HARPER
2116 Peach Tree Lane
South Bend, Ind. 46617

Bishop Brent, Milton Foreman, Frank White.

That by no means exhausts the list of names of men at the Paris Caucus who became well known in America. Dwight Davis was a Paris delegate, he who donated the famous Davis Cup in tennis, who had been on a national doubles championship team, and was to be U.S. Secretary of War. There was John G. Winant, later governor of New Hampshire and U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. There was Devereux Milburn, an all-time polo great. Two later high officials of the Veterans Administration, George Ijams and Omar Clark, were there. David M. Goodrich of the Goodrich tire and rubber family; R. D. Patterson, later Ass't Secretary of Commerce; Dick Patterson, for years later a prominent New York City official and for a time New York's official greeter; Piatt Andrews and Ralph Cole, both to serve in Congress and die young; John J. Carty, one of our early great communications engineers, and Joseph Mills Hanson, one of the most prodigious writers of American history of his day, were all at

the Paris meeting that started the Legion.

One of the prime movers with Roosevelt was George Ared White of Oregon, a former newsman on the *Portland Oregonian* who had been Adjutant General of Oregon and was a well-known fiction writer of his time under the name of George Ared.

White, who died as commanding general of Camp Lewis, Wash., in WW2, ran the Legion's first temporary and unofficial office in New York later in 1919, and took on the chief load of paper work and administration while Roosevelt and others stumped the country to organize the Legion in the States.

White got the Legion's magazine going on July 4, 1919, before anything was entirely official. Such commitments took nerve, for they involved large liabilities with no more to back them up than the good word of individuals until a convention would accept the risks in the name of a going organization. It cost \$365,515.13 to run the Legion until the first convention. Of that, \$257,000 was personally pledged by 213 of the founders (and

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EDITOR'S CORNER

later paid in full by the Legion). In National Hq. today there exists a cancelled personal note co-signed by Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin D'Olier in the amount of \$10,000, dated July 31, 1919.

That breed of founders were the older men back then, and few of them survive. Industrialist and financier Lawrence Whiting, of Chicago, now near 80, survives and when his health permits is still seen at Legion gatherings. He served on the WWI Peace Commission in Paris and was the chief personnel officer of our forces in France, though militarily he was a lieutenant colonel in the Engineer Corps. Many another is gone, such as the three future National Commanders of the Legion who were at the Paris Caucus—D'Olier, James A. Drain and Alvin Owsley—and others who became prominent on the American scene such as Leonard Ayres, the Cleveland economist; De Lancey Kountze of New York; W. R. Dunlap of Pittsburgh and John Sherburne of Boston.

When the Legion grew rapidly in the States, the host who would be prominent nationally grew beyond all listing before 1919 was over. Simply for example, probably few today know that the later colorful Mayor of New York, Fiorello La

Guardia, was among the national Legion's early Americanism committeemen, while publisher Frank Knox, who became Secretary of the Navy in WW2, assumed the chief burden of organizing the Legion in New Hampshire. Space, not further data, requires that we end this name-dropping stint at this point.

In a later issue this year we will introduce you to the men who pulled a *tour de force* by securing a charter from Congress for the Legion two months before it had ever held a convention. It was done with their good names, and the ideals to which they fixed the Legion's star. Most of them were listed in Who's Who in America and they came from nearly every state and every area of American leadership. Surgeons, writers, publishers, legislators, manufacturers, gov't officials, merchants, philanthropists, educators and clergymen were among them.

THE MONITOR AND THE VIRGINIA

THIS MONTH WE give you—in more detail than we suspect most readers have read—the story of the classic Civil War battles between the ironclad ships *Monitor* and *Merrimac*.

As everyone knows, what happened when those two hard-shelled, sea-going tortoises clashed spelled the end of wooden warships and the beginning of first iron, then steel, navies. Paul Ditzel's account, starting on page 30, ought to intrigue anyone with even a passing interest in American history.

We must get Ditzel off the hook with Civil War buffs on one little matter, and that is the name of the *Merrimac*, which was the Confederate ironclad. There are two points here.

The first is that the history buffs expect *Merrimac* to be spelled *Merrimack* (with a *k*) as the river in New England is spelled. That's how Ditzel spelled it, and that, he says, is how the U.S. Navy is supposed to have spelled it when it owned the ship. *We* preferred to drop the *k*, because most modern reference books refer to the Southern ironclad without any *k*. It may not be a good reason, since we don't know why so many reference works omit the *k*.

The second point is the fact that the *Merrimac* wasn't the *Merrimac* at all at the time of its conflict with the *Monitor*. On the face of it, no self-respecting Southerners would settle for having their ironclad named after a Yankee river, no matter the spelling. As Ditzel explained it to us, when Confederate Navy Secretary Mallory arranged to have the old U.S. Navy frigate *Merrimac* (or *Merrimack*) salvaged from the bottom off Norfolk for conversion into a Confederate ironclad, he promptly had its name changed to the *C.S.S. Virginia*, and that was its official name during all the time it was afloat for the Confederacy.

Only trouble is, nobody paid any heed to that. People just went on calling the *Virginia* the *Merrimac* (or *Merrimack*) right on down through history. RBP

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TEN YEARS AGO, in January 1959, Cubans lined the streets of Havana to hail Fidel Castro and his band of guerrillas on their entry into the city.

Today, most residents of Havana are again lining up in the streets—to survive. The hallmark of today's Cuba is the queue.

Waiting on line to buy almost anything has become a way of life in Cuba. The economic situation throughout the island has become so critical that almost everything is rationed. Cubans spend long hours waiting in line for meat, milk, eggs, bread, rice and other food staples. They queue up for clothing, shoes and gasoline. They stand in line for soap, cigars, cigarettes and—what must be the ultimate absurdity—for sugar, the productive mainstay of the country. They queue up for everything from an ice-cream cone or a cup of coffee to a wedding date and a reservation for the honeymoon hotel room.

Cubans hire people called *vendedores de turno*—(professional standers-in-line)—to take their places in the queues and relieve them of the waiting. Cuban officials, in turn, became so concerned over the loss of work time wasted in queuing-up that they issued an order limiting the number of hours a week each person can legally stand in line.

The life of the average Cuban is austere and grim. He lives day-to-day, with no certainty as to what tomorrow will bring him. The Castro regime sets the nation's economic priorities in secret meetings of the communist bureaucracy. Thus the average Cuban never has any inkling as to what he is going to eat or wear in the near future. Nor does he have any hint as to how much he is going to pay for the products he hopes to consume.

There is widespread discontent among the people of Cuba over other areas of their lives. In addition to the increasingly tight rationing of food and manufactured products, Cubans complain about lack of adequate housing. They grumble about frequent, arbitrary cutoffs of water and electricity in their homes. They resent deeply the unrelenting prodding by the government to produce more and more by working longer and longer hours. They are bitter at having to work Saturdays and Sundays without pay, after a five-day week with pay.

Popular discontent is greater than Castro propagandists dare to admit. The country is submerged in a deep political, economic and social crisis, according to an unofficial ten-year review of the Castro regime released by the United States Information Agency last December. Cuba, the USIA report says, "is faced today with an increasingly restless and even rebellious population." The

Cuban citizens, it notes, "show their feelings about the Castro rule by refusing to work hard, daily, conscientiously and well, as urged by the official propaganda."

In a radio-television address to the Cuban people last fall, Castro lifted slightly the veil of secrecy over the extent of the opposition to his rule. He disclosed that continuous waves of sabotage were sweeping the island. The communist dictator, according to a monitoring

rule, Castro pledged that he would enact and enforce "more severe" measures than already exist to curb the rise in sabotage. And to those youths who reject the principles and goals of his regime, the Cuban dictator issued a warning. They are to undergo "re-education" and if this doesn't work, those youths who do not "study" will be inducted into military service. If necessary, he stated, those as young as 14 years of age will be called up.

Castro's Cuba TODAY

**A review of Fidel Castro's ten years in power and how
they have changed Cuba and the lives of the Cubans.**

of his speech in this country, reported that at least 51 major incidents of sabotage had been committed recently by "counterrevolutionaries." Castro pointed out that arsonists had set fire to schools, coffee plantations, government factories and warehouses and two freighters.

Castro also said that large segments of Cuban youth were openly defying his leadership. He noted that Cuban youngsters, who had been educated under his regime, were engaging in "anti-revolutionary acts." They were carrying little transistor radios "to flashily maintain their leaning toward imperialist propaganda." The youths were breaking into schools and wrecking valuable classroom equipment. They were defacing the Cuban flag. And what particularly aroused Castro's anger was their deliberate destruction of what the dictator regards as sacred, what he believes the youth of the country should revere: portraits of Ernesto (Che) Guevara, the Cuban revolutionary hero slain in the mountains of Bolivia.

Many Cuban youths consider the Czech people's fight for freedom as a rallying point for their own desire for change. Castro agreed that such is the case. In his broadcast he noted that the youths who were responsible for the anti-revolutionary acts want to introduce a "new version" of the Czech revolt in Cuba. They seek "an ideological resoftening of the people," he said.

To counter growing opposition to his

Antagonism to the Castro regime is expected to mount sharply this year. As if things are not bad enough, the Cuban leader has made it quite clear that greater hardships are in store for the Cuban people. In a speech in January this year, marking the anniversary of his first decade in power, Castro called for yet more personal sacrifices to rescue Cuba's sagging economy.

Though an avowed Marxist, Castro is extremely undisciplined in his approach to economics. His economic policy, as he termed it himself, is one of "revolutionary audacity." Judging from his actions this means a frequent change of economic priorities and, apparently guided mostly by whim, the start of new "pilot" projects that nearly always turn out to be either fruitless or extravagant.

Under his rule Cuba has been led through a whole series of economic disasters. Its dictator has come up with one grandiose plan after another and practically all of them have flopped.

In 1959, Castro stressed the need for rapid industrialization of Cuba. His dream of "instant industrialization"—after his grab of more than a billion dollars' worth of U.S. owned properties—didn't work. His plan to divert acreage to other farm products and thus end Cuba's dependence on sugar, its principle crop, was a failure. His program to build up the small number of cattle herds by artificial insemination did not



Cuban youths who fought their way to Guantanamo and freedom last January.

succeed. Trying to make farmers of city people was one of the roots of these failures. A sullen work force was another, as was ambition that exceeded know-how.

Castro proclaims with pride that some 90 million coffee trees were planted last year in a "green-belt" around Havana. Sabotage has hurt the project, and it is doomed to failure anyway, say many U.S. experts, because the area is just not good coffee-growing terrain. That highlands are the best coffee territory means nothing to a Red bureaucrat who's decided to grow it at sea level.

When Castro comes up with an idea, it becomes an obsession with him. For example, he insists that by 1970 Cuba must produce 10 million tons of sugar. (In 1968 the sugar crop was 5.2 million tons.) So Cubans are now forced to work day and night planting sugar stalks all over the island. This sugar-planting drive, according to economists, is wreaking havoc in other sectors of the nation's economy. Also, these experts say, it is very unlikely that Cuba could ever sell 10 million tons of sugar a year on the world market.

The effects of such irrational schemes have already been devastating. In ten years, per capita income has gone down—from \$422 a year (1958) to \$415 (1968). On the basis of available economic data, experts estimate that in 1968 Cuba's gross national product—the total output of its goods and services—was about \$2.8 billion, which is practically the same as that of 1958 when the country had 6.5 million inhabitants as compared to 8 million persons now.

For years Castro has been trying to peddle two commodities abroad—sugar and revolution—but without success. In

practice, his outstanding export has been his own countrymen. An exodus that is still under way began almost from the moment Castro took power.

To date, some 500,000 men, women and children—about 6 percent of Cuba's total population—have fled their island homeland. More than 300,000 of them have come to the U.S. And even now, some 700,000 additional would-be refugees, whom Castro has mockingly called *gusanos* (worms), await the Cuban government's authorization to emigrate to this country aboard the regularly scheduled airlift to Miami. These "mercy flights" of the would-be immigrants to the U.S. are fully booked for the next three years.

The airlift was set up by the Johnson Administration in 1965, when Castro, anxious to provide an escape valve for growing domestic opposition, granted the right to emigrate to "all those who want to leave."

However, the hardships imposed upon anyone applying to leave Cuba are so great that only the most determined are not disheartened. As soon as a Cuban files an application to emigrate, the government freezes his bank account and makes a complete inventory of all his possessions. These are then confiscated by the state upon his departure.

Also, when they apply to leave the country, Cubans automatically lose their jobs. Would-be emigrants under 50 years of age are then sent to labor camps where they wait for as long as three years before being allowed to depart for Miami. The Cubans in these camps for the "Miami Brigade" receive poor food, work a fourteen-hour day, and, in general, live under deplorable conditions. Small wonder that many exiles-in-wait-

ing give up and withdraw their applications.

As many as a thousand Cubans each month, however, seek to get out of the country illegally. These Cubans either do not qualify under government emigration rules or are not inclined to face the ordeal of the work camps. They brave the rough Straits of Florida aboard stolen airplanes and boats, and even inflated inner tubes, hoping to elude Cuban patrol boats and strafing by Cuban Air Force planes. So many Cubans have lost their lives in trying to cross the 90 miles of water to Florida that the Straits are known to Cubans as *el corredor de la muerte*—the corridor of death.

The desperation of those who want to leave was dramatized last January by the largest mass escape since the Cuban dictator came to power. A group of 150 men, women and children jammed themselves in a trailer truck which they used to ram through the Cuban Army defenses around the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base on the island. Eighty-eight persons defied the gunfire of Cuban guards and succeeded in breaking through the barbed wire obstructions to freedom in the naval base. Most of the others were killed or captured.

One of the escapees, an 18-year-old student told a reporter on arriving in Miami: "If the road to Guantanamo was open, the base would sink under the sea from the number of Cubans who would go there to get away."

This, in essence, is what has been and is happening in Cuba under Castro's cratic leadership. But as he still wields the power he still poses a threat to the military security and political stability of Latin America.

During the past ten years, he has built a full-fledged communist state 90 miles from U.S. shores. He has tried to foment revolutions in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Colombia and elsewhere. Though checkmated in these attempts, he keeps trying. Castro still holds to the dream of bringing about "one, two, three Vietnams" in Latin America.

Through Castro, the Soviet Union has been able to flout the Monroe Doctrine. The Russians have poured at least \$3 billion into Cuba in economic aid, plus millions more in military assistance. They are now providing aid amounting to well over \$1 million a day to help keep Cuba's shaky economy from toppling. There is no doubt that the Kremlin leaders are keeping Castro going. Why, since the Soviets feel he is too independent? According to some U.S. experts, it is because "the Soviets will be in a position to influence Castro's successor—whoever he is and whenever he emerges."

Castro has had his troubles and is staggering on the ropes. But with Soviet support he appears far from being counted out.

THE END



A LEGION

50th ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

The Paris Caucus

March 15-16-17, 1919

EXACTLY 50 YEARS ago this March 15, what turned out to be the first meeting of The American Legion was held in the American Club, 4 Rue Gabriel, Paris, France.

Present were a number of WWI officers and enlisted men then on active duty overseas, four months and four days after the Armistice of Nov. 11, 1918.

Nobody today knows how many people were present. One vote was recorded on that Saturday, March 15, 1919, as "279 to 72 with many not voting," so there were "many" more than 351 in the hall then. The names of 463 are preserved, but others came and went without registering. It is known that many who were not registered among the 463 were there, for they served on committees. For instance, the late J. Monroe Johnson, of South Carolina, served on several committees but wasn't registered. He was for many years later a prominent national official, one of Harry Truman's political stalwarts in the Democratic party, and a tower of strength in the Legion (where he always removed his political cap and donated abounding good humor, priceless wisdom and impartial influence).

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.,* son of the 26th President of the United States, had joined with 19 other officers to call the Paris meeting for the purpose of forming a veterans' organization. They connived (chiefly by getting dubious orders written) to bring into Paris officers and enlisted men from as many different military units then in France as they could.

The U.S. high command didn't authorize the meeting. In fact it had to look the other way, because one of the ground rules of that first Legion meeting was most unmilitary. As men from brigadier general to private walked into the hall they shed their rank and debated as equals. (Few if any of the officers were Regulars. Like the enlisted men present the officers were already viewing



themselves as civilians-soon-to-be.)

The enlisted men weren't the only ones to enjoy the "no rank here" rule and to abuse it with occasional snide remarks about officers. Even a major would now and then say something on the floor about colonels that he wouldn't repeat outside. Thus, in the second meeting, two days later, the 36th Division's Major Maurice K. Gordon (now a Madisonville, Kentucky, lawyer in his 90's), moved to adopt the name "American Legion." His chief reason was that it was the fifth and last choice of a committee named by "the brass" to recommend a name. Major Gordon's logic was so delightful that the name "American Legion" carried unanimously. When pleasingly plump Sgt. Alexander Woollcott, of later literary fame, objected to the name "American Legion" someone else called him a "fat medico" and he subsided.

But if the delegates had such fun and sport with one another, they were deadly serious about forming a veterans organization that would (1) continue in peace the comradeship that war had thrown them into, and (2) continue in peace the sense of service and dedication to

America that in war had led them to offer their lives for their country.

They were determined *not* to create another Grand Army of the Republic or United Confederate Veterans, both of which got into partisan politics after the Civil War.

In this aim, Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. (a leading young Republican) and Bennett Champ Clark (a leading young Democrat from Missouri, later to serve long in the Senate and spearhead the WW2 GI Bill) joined hands together in a non-partisan gesture as early leaders of the embryo Legion.

The March 15 meeting in Paris took much time to do little business. The secretary, the late Major Eric Fisher Wood, of Pennsylvania, took the chair because Roosevelt had already been returned to the States by the Army.

Wood (whose son, Eric, Jr. was to become one of the legendary heroes of the Battle of the Bulge in WW2, fighting on alone to his death when his regiment was overwhelmed and surrendered) explained for what purpose the members of the caucus had been called through the efforts of Roosevelt and his 19 officer friends. That took a long time, as few there yet knew what was up.

Then Bennett Clark took the chair, Wood reverted to secretary, and Captain Ogden Mills moved that committees be named to draw up and submit plans for (1) permanent organization, (2) a constitution, (3) a name, and (4) a later convention in the States in 1919. Mills, scion of a wealthy New York family and later U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, also helped finance the Legion in its difficult formative months in 1919.

With the naming of committees, the March 15 meeting adjourned shortly before 6 p.m. It had been a long day.

On Sunday, March 16, the committees deliberated and prepared their reports, and there was no general meeting.

The second, and final, general meeting of the Paris Caucus assembled in the Cirque de Paris, an amusement hall that had been taken over by the Y.M.C.A., at 9:25 a.m., Monday, March 17, 1919. The only known existing

*He died of a heart attack as a Brigadier General on the Normandy beachhead one war later.



Only known photo of the Paris Caucus of the Legion as it met in the Cirque de Paris on March 17, 1919.

photo of the Paris Caucus, which is shown here, is of that March 17 meeting. Bennett Clark called the meeting to order, but as he had to leave on military business the chair was taken by Lt. Col. Thomas W. Miller, then of Delaware and the 79th Division. Of all of those with leading roles at Paris, only Miller is still an active national Legion official 50 years later. He is the National Executive Committeeman for Nevada. In 1968 he became the sixth of the Legion's early founders to be voted the honorary title of Past National Commander, never having been National Commander (see album of National Commanders, page 22).

A five-man delegation was sent to wait on President Woodrow Wilson and invite him to the caucus. Wilson was then in Paris for the peace conference. The five-man committee included three brigadier generals, a sergeant and a private. The last two—who worked on the Army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* in Paris—were Private Harold W. Ross and Sergeant John T. Winterich. Both were later editors of the American Legion's magazine, and Ross left it to

found, publish and edit the New Yorker magazine until his death. They returned from their mission empty-handed. Wilson would not see them, and writer Laurence Stallings later complained of something aloof in Wilson's character which led him never to visit any of the battlefields or establish any personal rapport with the WWI Doughboys.

Down through the years, many Legion founders have lodged one complaint about Eric Wood (who was also named an honorary Past National Commander before his death). As secretary, they said, he didn't record half of the salty stuff that was said on the floor on March 17. Perhaps Wood is to be commended for exercising a little judicious censorship in his minutes. There was intense suspicion that the 20 officers under Roosevelt who'd called the meeting had something up their sleeves. From what has come down in history by word of mouth, these suspicions were often expressed in plain language.

Even the Chief of Chaplains of the AEF, Bishop Charles Brent, came to the Cirque de Paris brooding with suspicion. He was already forming a vet-

erans organization called Comrades in Service. But when, on March 17, the caucus approved a preamble not unlike the present Legion preamble, Bishop Brent seconded the motion, said he'd been afraid that an organization without purpose was being formed, and on the spot threw Comrades in Service into the Legion.

Though far from perfect, the reports of the four committees that had worked on Sunday are remarkable for how much they conceived in one day's work that was right, and endured.

The present structure of the Legion, with state, territorial and overseas Departments, all enjoying a large degree of self-rule, was fairly spelled out by the 13-man Committee on Constitution. It included Tom Miller, Ross, Winterich and others who for years continued to give the Legion a large degree of leadership. Among the 13 were Lemuel Bolles (later National Adjutant), Milton Foreman of Chicago (also later made an honorary Past National Commander) and Frank A. White, later Treasurer of the United States.

(Continued on page 48)



St. Louis Caucus

May 8-9-10, 1919

THE PROCEEDINGS of the St. Louis Caucus of The American Legion fill a book 177 pages long. The Caucus met May 8, 9 and 10, 1919, at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater in St. Louis, Mo. There were 1,108 delegates registered, not a few of whose names were later misspelled when their long-hand was transcribed. Many others have since claimed, some successfully, that they were there but failed to register. Nobody knows how many more than 1,108 actually attended.

The miracle of organization, in the seven weeks since the Paris Caucus, was evidenced by the registration of delegates at St. Louis from every one of the then 48 states except North Carolina, as well as from the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines. Five lesser veterans organizations that had formed but threw their lot in with the Legion were also represented. A sixth sent a delegate, but he was voted out of the hall because his "veterans organization" was a violent, radical group.

The Caucus showed what it meant by "to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses." It assailed Bolsheviks in its second order of business on May 8. On May 10 it stood in silence in the memory of President Theodore Roosevelt, because he had "defied Wall Street and every other combination," in the words of Joseph Healy, a New York advertising representative who still wore the blue of a Navy Seaman.

Thus the Caucus spoke out against both alien radicalism and the special privileges of "moneyed interests."

It covered a lot of other ground. Most important, it set up a nationwide Temporary Joint Committee, empowered to make the embryo Legion operate until its first official convention, which was set for Minneapolis on Nov. 10, 11 and 12, 1919.

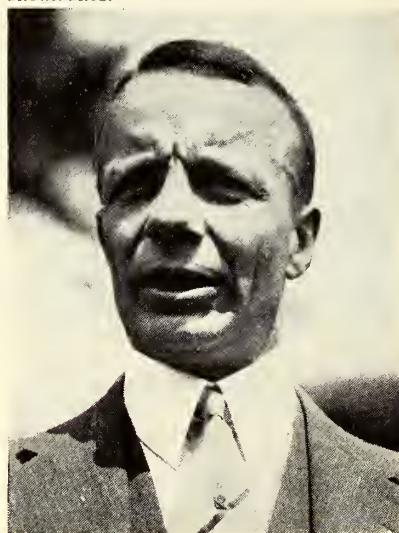
To take over the Caucus after Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., called it to order, and to head the Joint Committee until November, it elected Henry D. Lindsley. He was a former mayor of Dallas who had been called into the federal government to try to clean up the mess of its ill-conceived, ill-functioning and inadequate

programs for the returned veterans.

Lindsley, an excellent choice, was only accepted after Roosevelt absolutely refused the leadership in spite of prolonged clamor from the floor that he be drafted over his objections.

Young Roosevelt knew what he was doing. More than any other man he had conceived the Legion and worked to make the St. Louis Caucus possible. As the son of a former President he was

BROWN BROS.



Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. He got the Legion going, then stepped down.

well-connected in every state. By telegram and letter, and in person, he had asked governors, mayors and other leading citizens in every state and major city to call local caucuses of returned WWI veterans in March and April. The 50-man Executive Committee named at the Paris Caucus (headed by Milton Foreman of Chicago) had joined in this work in person, or by mail to home state friends if they were still in France. From these local meetings across the nation the delegations to St. Louis had been selected.

Only one shadow had marked the almost universal enthusiasm and idealism of these earliest gatherings in every state. From New Orleans to Minnesota, from California to New York, the suspicion of secret political purpose had had to be met.

The accusation that the Legion was being formed to "deliver the soldier vote," or to "continue the influence of the 'brass' over the enlisted men in peacetime" had haunted Roosevelt's every effort. He met it by enunciating the ideals that at St. Louis were boiled into the Preamble (see page 20). He met it by urging that the initial local meetings be headed by prominent citizens who were not known for their political activities, but for civic-mindedness. He met it by inviting men of both major parties, and all the former enlisted men of ability he could find, to join in the early leadership.

The delegates at St. Louis were satisfied on the political score. They clamored and demonstrated for Roosevelt to lead them.

But, because he was a nationally prominent young Republican, he told them that the country at large would not believe the political neutrality of the Legion if he should accept. And, he said, if he should now accept at their insistence after having refused, it would only look like "a grandstand play."

To get on with the election of Lindsley, instead, he surrendered the chair to Bennett Champ Clark, Missouri's most prominent young Democrat.

Later, to settle the political question almost for all time, the Caucus wrote into its draft constitution an absolute prohibition of the spreading of partisan principles in or by the Legion, or its support of any candidate for office. The motto became "policies, not politics." Elective Legion offices were denied anyone holding or actively seeking an elective public office. (At the Cleveland convention in 1920, an official committee urged a softening of the bar against partisan political activity in the Legion. It thought the Legion could lobby more effectively if it endorsed or condemned candidates for office by name. Under the leadership of James Boyle, of Maine, the committee's proposal at Cleveland was turned down on the floor and it has never come up again.)

For all that happened openly on the floor at St. Louis, an invisible something there did much to insure the speedy local



May, 1919. Delegates to the St. Louis Caucus jam the Shubert-Jefferson Theater.

organization of the Legion across the nation. As yet, nothing was official in the states and towns. Some informal state and post groups had formed. But none followed any set plan. They were just local clubs. By the November convention the Legion would have to be official and representative, and have behind it the catch-as-catch-can self-appointed caucuses.

It all happened that way. By November the Legion had 684,000 paid up members, and you can search long in history for another voluntary organization that grew so big so fast.

The invisible thing in St. Louis that helped bring off the Legion as a real thing all over the country was well stated in the history of the Iowa Legion by Jacob A. Swisher that the Iowa State Historical Society published in 1929:

"During the days that the (St. Louis Caucus) was in session, representatives from various states met in separate groups and formulated plans for state organizations which would carry the work forward until . . . the first state convention. The Iowa delegates met at the Planters' Hotel to perfect a temporary state organization."

Many states decided at St. Louis to do what Iowa did. They undoubtedly compared notes, since a number of states followed the same plans, including de-

tails not brought up on the floor of the Caucus. Signatures of 15 local veterans on a charter application could establish a post. Posts would get numbers beginning with 1 in each state, strictly in the order of receipt of applications.

Swisher tells of the successful race of Legionnaires from Spencer, Iowa. By Ford, rail and taxi they beat out a special delivery letter from Council Bluffs to Des Moines by a few minutes, snatching the designation "Post 1, Iowa" for Spencer and leaving "Post 2" for Council Bluffs.

For all the business that it conducted, the St. Louis Convention was colorful as well. It was officially proposed that local Legion units be called "billets." A voice from the floor said a billet was a place to sleep and the Legion didn't propose to sleep. Others said they'd already organized "posts." "Billets" was changed to "posts" without further ado.

A small assortment of drunks, crackpots and characters promoting themselves politically showed up. A nut or a drunk (the minutes don't say which) started an incoherent speech from the stage before the sergeants-at-arms threw him out bodily. By the second day, the temper of the majority of delegates took such a threatening attitude toward these jokers that they left or shut up (their antics no longer appeared in the minutes,

which are extremely accurate and complete).

Many of the delegates wanted to sponsor policies that were sectional, controversial within the group, or partisan. This threatened to wreck the whole proceedings by the third day. One man put them back on the track.

Early on May 10, a preacher, the Rev. John Inzer of Alabama (later National Chaplain), took the floor and gave a hell-for-leather speech urging them not to feed the baby raw meat lest they destroy the Legion at its birth. Let anything they couldn't agree on await at least a truly representative convention, said Inzer. Don't divide the Legion by urging policies on which Americans from different areas, or of different politics or interests cannot agree. Save them for when your Legion hat is off. When it's on, be for what all good Americans can be for.

That was his gist, but Inzer pulled all the stops of an old-time revival meeting to get it across, and he got it across. Threatened division turned to unity as the delegates finished their business late on May 10 and went home to organize state conventions and local posts. They had established the machinery, clarified their purposes, resolved their differences and the rest would be up to their willingness to act.

THE END



A LEGION

50th ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

The First National Convention

Minneapolis, Minn. Nov. 10-11-12, 1919

THE FIRST NATIONAL convention of The American Legion met in cold weather, with snow in the air, at Minneapolis' Lyceum Theater, on Nov. 10, 11 and 12, 1919, exactly one year after the WWI Armistice.

Since the May caucus in St. Louis, the accomplishments of the Joint Temporary Committee under Henry Lindsley had moved forward at a terrific pace. So had those of the state delegations at St. Louis who went home and got state caucuses and conventions as well as local Posts going in the late spring and summer months of 1919.

Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., the Rev. John Inzer, and John Herbert, of Massachusetts, spearheaded a group that stumped the country speaking locally to hasten the Legion's grass-roots organization. Between May and November these efforts created an organization that sent delegates to Minneapolis representing 684,000 paid up members who'd joined in six months!

On July 4, the first issue of the Legion's magazine had appeared (it was then a weekly). George Ared White started it in New York (a plaque still marks the building on West 44th St.). The Legion soon directed that its magazine be one of general interest to all Americans, rather than a purely fraternal publication. With the recent folding of the Saturday Evening Post, the American Legion Magazine, in 1969, is the only surviving general interest magazine in the United States that was being published in 1919.

Under the leadership of Tom Miller, of Delaware, and Luke Lea, of Tennessee (both of whom had been in Congress before going to war), a charter for the Legion was secured from Congress and signed by President Wilson on Sept. 16.

Thus when 684 delegates assembled in Minneapolis, the foundation work had already been done. It remained to them to sanction what had gone before, refine and polish the programs and work already under way, elect permanent of-

ficers for the coming year and look to the future of a going thing.

They gave the Legion its first official Constitution (the constitutions drafted at Paris and St. Louis had no official status). In Article XIV they said: "All acts performed and charters heretofore granted by the temporary organization of The American Legion are hereby ratified and confirmed." The Convention resolved to pay back the \$257,000 that

16). But the "temporary button design" already in use became the emblem. It set the wheels going for the Manual of Ceremonies, and directed what its tenor should be. (The Chaplain's prayers from the Legion ceremonial manual stand as masterpieces of non-sectarian prayer, equally acceptable to Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Muslim or Buddhist.) It created the Americanism Commission, and declared that the foundation of Americanism is education.

It spelled out the principle that the local Posts should not be the tail of the dog, but that local and statewide activities for community good should be the foundation on which the Legion would stand or fall.

During that first convention, news came that four Legionnaires had been shot down in cold blood by radical IWW's while marching in the Armistice Day parade in Centralia, Washington. Though the anger of the delegates knew no bounds, they staked their faith in combating anarchy through the constitutional processes of law and order, and counseled against those who called for lynch law.

The Legion hired the late Verna Grimm, widow of Post Commander Warren Grimm who had fallen in Centralia, and she was its national librarian in Indianapolis until long after WW2.

A Washington bureau was authorized as a base for legislative activity. Tom Miller and Luke Lea, former Congressmen who had secured the Legion's Charter, were named to be a two-man legislative committee.

Elihu Root (Secretary of State from 1905 to 1909, and a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1912) proposed a complete new Preamble, but it was rejected in committee in favor of the St. Louis Preamble—and that was adopted unanimously. Hamilton Fish led the movement in Committee to preserve it.

George Brokaw Compton, of New York, and Frank Sieh, of South Dakota, were chairman and secretary of a committee that successfully preserved the St. Louis policy to keep the Legion out of partisan politics. Years later, Sieh was the prime mover in starting Legion Ju-



Cover of first convention program. The emblem was then just a "button design," but it was adopted as the official emblem when a contest failed to better it.

213 Founders had spent or pledged to create the Legion. The baby now stood on its own feet.

Many other actions at Minneapolis related to things and issues peculiar to the times. Yet the meeting laid almost as much groundwork for the future as had the founders. It created an emblem committee and gave it a year to seek a design for a permanent emblem (see page



The first Legion parade marches along snow-swept streets of Minneapolis, Nov. 1919.

nior Baseball, beginning in South Dakota.

At Minneapolis the American Legion Auxiliary was provided for in the Constitution. A committee headed by C. J. Martin, of Kansas, urged that an organizing Auxiliary convention be called "at the earliest practicable moment."

Indianapolis was accepted as the site for permanent national headquarters. Numerous committees which have been changed only in form were set up—such as committees on legislation, veterans employment, and "beneficial legislation."

The latter continues today as the commission on veterans' rehabilitation. Its personal services to veterans, which extend far beyond legislation, were foreseen and set in motion at Minneapolis. The Legion's own future youth programs and its rise as a major sponsor of scouting were foreshadowed by a resolution urging every Post to assist local Boy Scout troops "in whatever manner practicable." A Committee on Military Policy was formed, which endures today as the National Security Commission. A policy on overseas burial of the war

dead, except when next-of-kin opt for return, was adopted. It is official federal policy today, administered under U.S. battle monuments and graves registration bodies.

There was still much to be done, but the Legion came out of Minneapolis with its purposes and its organization solid. It elected Franklin D'Olier, later to head the Prudential Life Insurance Co., as its first Nat'l Cmdr., and met in Cleveland a year later with 200,000 more members and action programs going from Washington, D.C. to Main Street. THE END

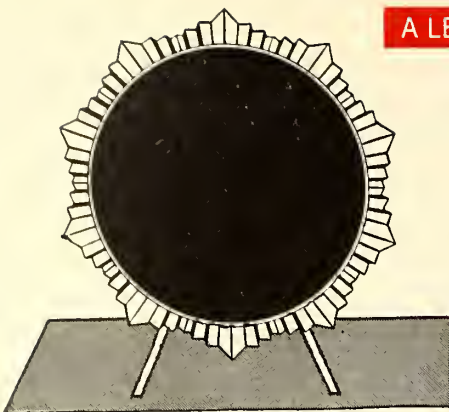


A crowd at the first convention, and (right) exterior of the Lyceum Theater.

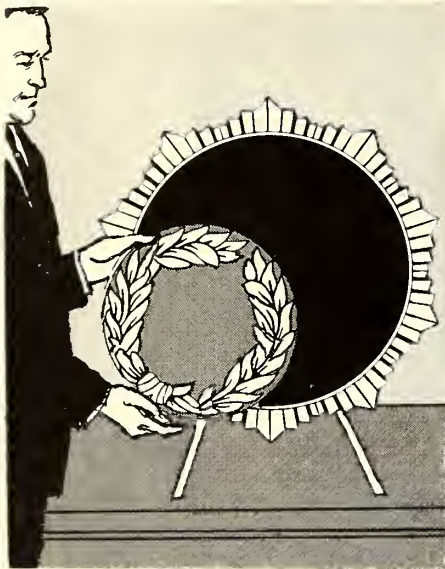
The Meaning of The American Legion EMBLEM

By Professor ROBERT W. HART, Kansas State Teachers College

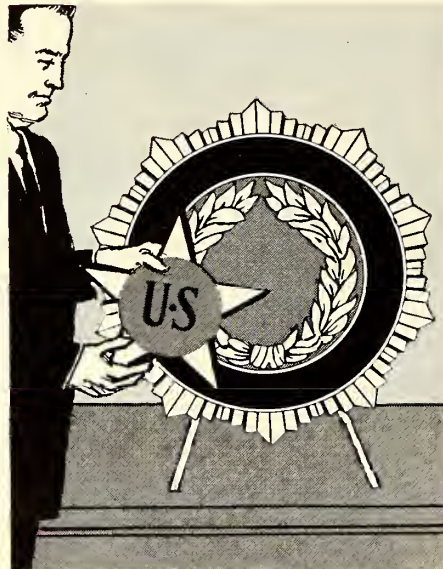
Reprinted from *The American Legion Magazine*, March 1956



1. **THE RAYS OF THE SUN** form the background of our proud Emblem, and suggest that the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.



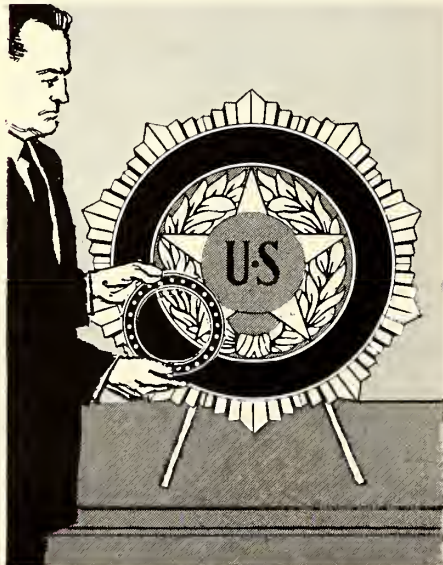
2. **THE WREATH** forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States, that liberty might endure.



3. **THE STAR**, victory symbol of WWI, signalizes as well honor, glory and constancy. The letters U.S. leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's sky.



4. **TWO LARGE RINGS.** The outer one stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled buddies. The inner one denotes the welfare of America's children.



5. **TWO SMALL RINGS** set upon the star. The outer pledges loyalty and Americanism. The inner is for service to our communities, our states and the nation.

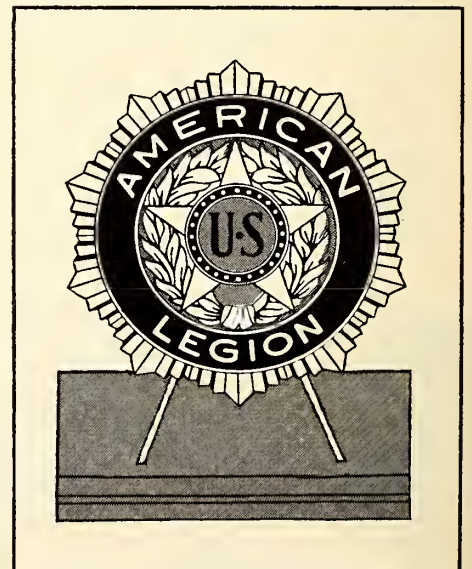
EVERY part of The American Legion Emblem has a meaning, a rich symbolism that a glance does not reveal.

The Emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun, giver of life, warmth and courage; foe of the cold, of the darkness, of fear, of apprehension.

In turn, each of the Emblem's many parts signifies a meaning which no American Legionnaire who wears the Emblem should take lightly, and which he should know from the first moment that he puts his Emblem on.

Why does the star signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars are fixed in the heavens, while the planets, the moon and the sun wander. As the stars do not wander, so should The American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes.

Here, in pictures, the meanings of all the symbols of The American Legion Emblem are indicated.



6. The words **AMERICAN LEGION** tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, rehabilitation, child welfare, loyalty, Americanism.

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A LEGION

50th ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

The Legion's Preamble



PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation:

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of

justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship

by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

and How It Came To Be

THE PREAMBLE to the Constitution of The American Legion has often been ranked among great American documents.

One might suppose that the Preamble is the studied literary effort of many men, sharpened and refined over a period of years—or else the work of some great literary genius or democratic philosopher.

Actually, few documents that combine idealism and simplicity so beautifully are ever consciously contrived. Instead, when the hour is right, and at no other time, they may emerge as the spontaneous expression of people who are sharing with others a complete communion of strong feeling. Then, like the Declaration of Independence, they may spring easily from the heart with little conscious attempt at literary artifice or style.

That was true of the Legion Preamble. The able men who designed it were picked almost at random from among a corps of able men who had found an hour when they were all in tune.

Six men did the main work on the Preamble. Three of them were seven weeks, one ocean and half a continent removed from the other three. The first three worked on the Preamble a day. The second three worked on it a night and a day. None of the six ever wrote or contributed to such an enduring document before or after. None dreamed at the time that their work would be found so perfect.

When 13 men were named to draft a tentative Constitution for the Legion at the Paris Caucus, and given one day to do it (March 16, 1919), they all sensed a need for an opening statement of purpose. The chairman, Lt. Col. G. Edward Buxton (in peacetime a leading Rhode Island cotton manufacturer), named three men to draft a preamble. He picked Frank A. White, former governor of North Dakota; Redmond C. Stewart, and W. H. Curtiss (the last two officers in the 1st and 91st Divisions). The whole Paris Caucus had spent the day before discussing what purposes they had in mind. There is no record that White, Stewart and Curtiss had any trouble at all in putting together the following, which was adopted with enthusiasm the next day:

"We, the members of the Military and Naval Service of the United States of America in the great war, desiring to perpetuate the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy for which we have fought; to inculcate the duty and

obligation of the citizen to the state; to preserve the history and incidents of our participation in the war; and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an association for the furtherance of the foregoing purposes."

Anyone can find four elements in this temporary statement of purpose that are preserved to this day in the final Preamble. Those were the words that moved Bishop Brent to throw the lot of his own veterans' organization in with the Legion on the spot in Paris. (see page 11).

Seven weeks later, the Committee on Constitution at the St. Louis Caucus drafted the final Preamble. Roy C. Haines, of Maine, was the chairman. To draft a preamble he named a three-man subcommittee consisting of George N. Davis, of Delaware; Hamilton Fish, of New York and John C. Greenway, of Arizona. Fish was the chairman.

Greenway and Davis, the latter a judge, had fought in the Spanish-American War as well as in WW1, Greenway with the Rough Riders. Fish was a captain in WW1, the youngest of the three and the only one surviving today. An All-American Harvard football player in the heyday of the Big Three, he later served many years as a Congressman from New York.

The three had dinner together in St. Louis on May 8, 1919. They discussed a preamble throughout the evening, slept on it overnight and put together the bulk of the present Preamble early next morning. Ten years ago, shortly before his death in Hood River, Oreg., Judge Davis gave this magazine a copy of his rough draft of a preamble that he brought to the subcommittee meeting on the morning of May 9 as a basis of discussion. It is shown here.

What the three had to go on was (1) the Paris preamble of White, Stewart and Curtiss, (2) all the discussions of the purposes of the Legion that had gone on on both sides of the Atlantic for seven weeks and (3) a report to the Paris Caucus on March 15, by Eric Fisher Wood, of the ideas that the younger Roosevelt and 19 friends had had in mind in February 1919, before they called the Paris Caucus.

The thoughts expressed in the Preamble were already almost unanimous among the thousands who were then active in forming the Legion. In fact, on May 10, the Committee on Resolutions reported to the St. Louis Caucus after Davis, Fish and Greenway had

completed their work but before their committee had reported to the Caucus. It offered a resolution of purpose stating the same basic thoughts. That version might have been adopted had not Fish moved to have it set aside because it anticipated the report of the Committee on Constitution, still to come. The Resolutions Committee's statement of purpose was as idealistic as the final document, but it was so clumsily written that it's a good thing Fish succeeded in having it set aside.

Together, Fish, Greenway and Davis had already drafted all the ultimate Preamble on the morning of May 9, except for three phrases. They added two of these at the suggestion of E. Lester Jones of the District of Columbia, who visited them. They were: "To inculcate a sense

*In the name of God and our country:
To defend and safeguard the constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain and preserve the principles of freedom; to foster and perpetuate Americanism; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by mutual helpfulness and the application of the Golden Rule,
we dedicate our future by the adoption of this our constitution.*

*Submitted by
Judge Davis*

Judge Davis' draft Preamble, written in his hotel after midnight, May 9, 1919.

of individual obligation . . . etc.," and "To safeguard and transmit to posterity . . . etc." When they reported to the full Committee on Constitution, it added "To preserve the memories and incidents . . . etc." The sense of these additions to the subcommittee's work had already been written into the Paris Preamble, but, according to Davis, omitted in their draft until Jones and the whole Committee on Constitution urged that they be preserved from the Paris document.

The whole Caucus at St. Louis adopted the Preamble in a matter of a minute or two, without debate, late on May 10, 1919. The only change since has been the addition of an s to war in the phrase "associations in the great wars." Until WW2 it was "the great war."

THE END

The National Commanders of the A



*Franklin D'Olier
1919-1920 Pa.



*F. W. Galbraith, Jr.
1920-21 Ohio



*John G. Emery
1921 Mich.



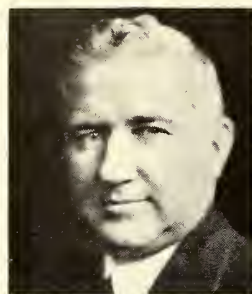
*Hanford MacNider
1921-22 Iowa



*Alvin M. Owsley
1922-23 Tex.



John R. Quinn
1923-24 Cal.



*Ralph T. O'Neil
1930-31 Kans.



Henry L. Stevens, Jr.
1931-32 N. Car.



*Louis Johnson
1932-33 W. Va.



*Edward A. Hayes
1933-34 Ill.



*Frank N. Belgrano
1934-35 Cal.



Ray Murphy
1935-36 Iowa



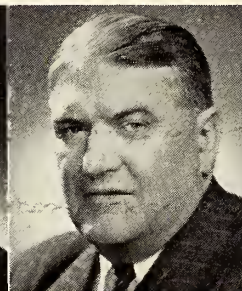
*Roane Waring
1942-43 Tenn.



Warren Atherton
1943-44 Cal.



*Edward Scheiberling
1944-45 N.Y.



*John Stelle
1945-46 Ill.



Paul H. Griffith
1946-47 Pa.



James F. O'Neil
1947-48 N.H.



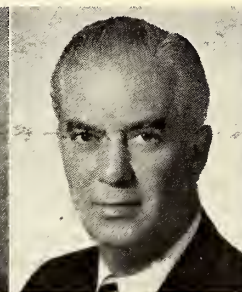
Seaborn P. Collins
1954-55 N. Mex.



J. Addington Wagner
1955-56 Mich.



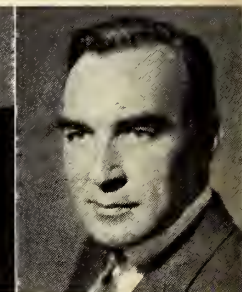
W. C. Daniel
1956-57 Va.



John S. Gleason, Jr.
1957-58 Ill.



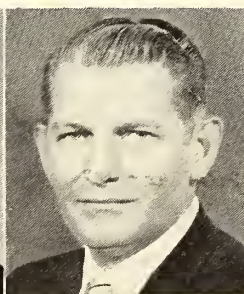
Preston J. Moore
1958-59 Okla.



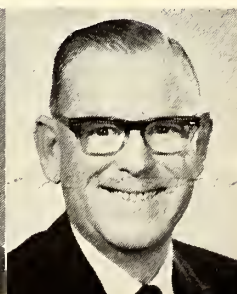
Martin B. McKneally
1959-60 N.Y.



John E. Davis
1966-67 N. Dak.



William E. Galbraith
1967-68 Nebr.



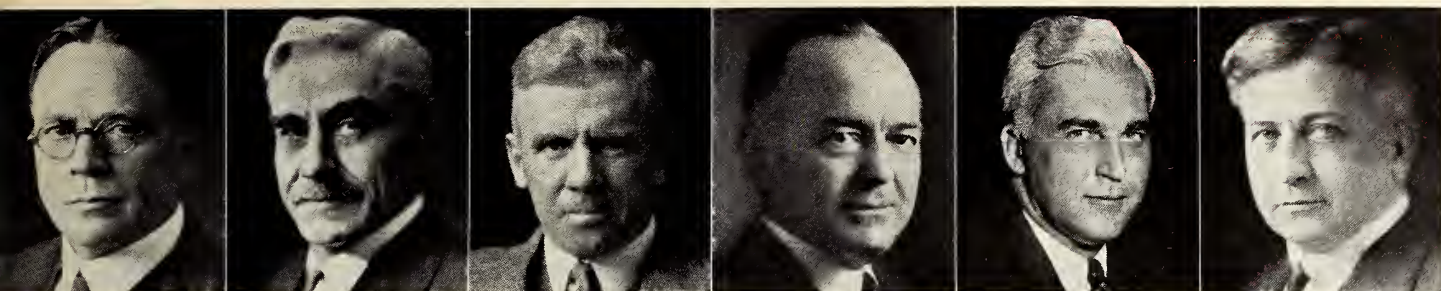
William C. Doyle
1968-69 N.J.

ABOVE AND AT left are the National Commanders of The American Legion from 1919 to date. Those marked (*) are deceased. One (Frederick Galbraith, 1920-21) died in office and Emery filled out his term. At right are six founders who were voted the title of Past National Commander without having served as Commander. Four Nat'l Commanders have been governors of their states (McNutt, Craig, Stelle and Davis). Louis Johnson was Secretary of Defense. Gleason was Administrator of Veterans Affairs. MacNider was Minister to Canada. Two headed large national corporations (D'Olier and Belgrano); two are in Congress (Daniel and McKneally).

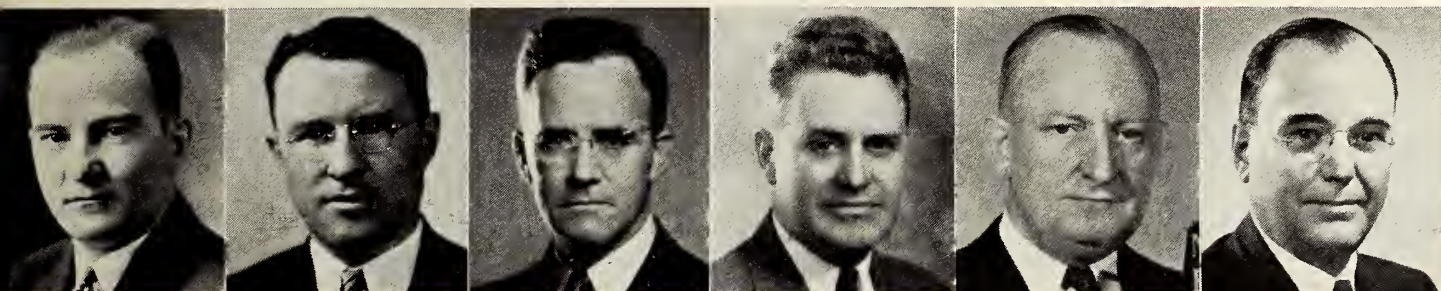
American Legion 1919-1969



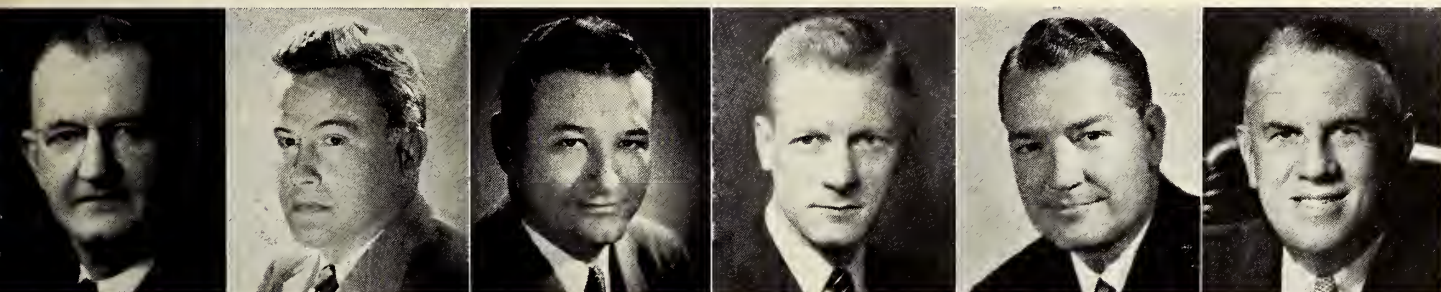
A LEGION
50th ANNIVERSARY
FEATURE



*James A. Drain 1924-25 D.C. *John R. McQuigg 1925-26 Ohio *Howard P. Savage III 1926-27 Ill. *Edward E. Spafford 1927-28 N.Y. *Paul V. McNutt 1928-29 Ind. *Oscar L. Bodenhamer 1929-30 Ark.



Harry W. Colmery 1936-37 Kans. Daniel J. Doherty 1937-38 Mass. Stephen F. Chadwick 1938-39 Wash. Raymond J. Kelly 1939-40 Mich. *Milo J. Warner 1940-41 Ohio Lynn U. Stambaugh 1941-42 N. Dak.



Perry Brown 1948-49 Tex. George N. Craig 1949-50 Ind. Erle Cocke, Jr. 1950-51 Ga. Donald R. Wilson 1951-52 W. Va. *Lewis K. Gough 1952-53 Cal. *Arthur J. Connell 1953-54 Conn.



William R. Burke 1960-61 Cal. Charles L. Bacon 1961-62 Mo. James E. Powers 1962-63 Ga. Daniel F. Foley 1963-64 Minn. Donald E. Johnson 1964-65 Iowa L. Eldon James 1965-66 Va.



Henry D. Lindsley Texas Milton Foreman Illinois Bennett C. Clark Missouri Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. New York Eric Fisher Wood Pennsylvania Thomas W. Miller Nevada (ex-Delaware)



A LEGION

50th ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

A Family Album of



The Armistice in the Army.



The Armistice in the Navy.

The Armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, released the energies that created the Legion. These three photos depict how the news of the Armistice hit (above) the Army; (right, top) the Navy, and (right) the home front, in this case downtown Chicago. One year later, to the day, the Legion was holding its first national convention. Elsewhere, on the four pages beginning here, are seen various views of the Legion's early years.



The Armistice in the States.



The Legion's first truly colossal convention



The Legion's 1921 Nat'l Executive Committee poses on June 14, 1921, in front of Indianapolis War

the Early American Legion



Parade brought all Kansas City out to see it in 1921.



The heads of all the allied forces of WWI came to the Kansas City convention of 1921. At left, U.S. General John J. Pershing and France's Marshal Ferdinand Foch.



1924 gag photo at Coney Island purports to show N.Y. vets going to nat'l convention on elephants.



Memorial. Tom Miller (Del.), tenth from right, is still on the Committee, now representing Nevada.



A LEGION

50th ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

CONTINUED
FROM PRECEDING PAGE

The early Legionnaires took a while to develop a sense of their own history. They either took few photos or preserved few. The first convention of which a large number of photos are known to exist was the 1922 meeting in New Orleans. Five of those on these two pages were taken in New Orleans, to which the Legion next returned in 1968.



Huge crowd on Canal Street at New Orleans 1922 convention.



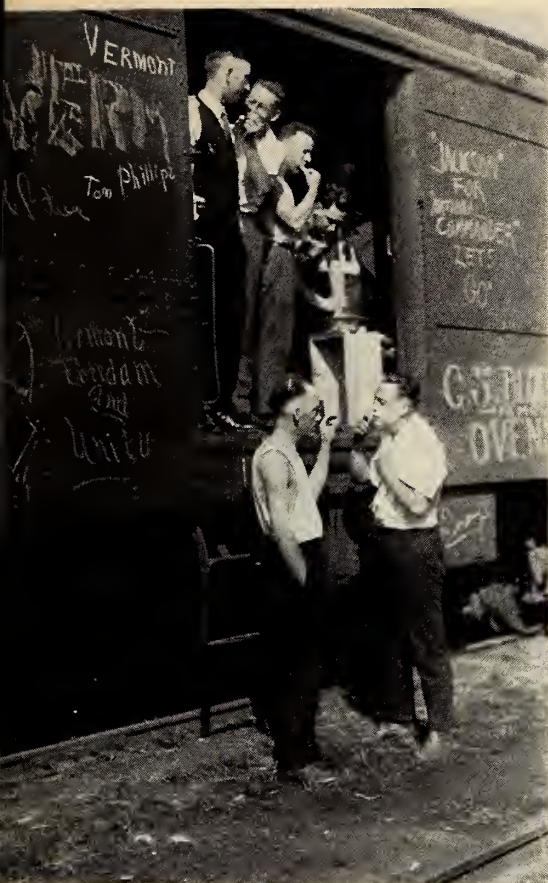
The bulk of the early Legion was made up of young men, who were offered athletic events at conventions. Above, start of 1922 three-mile race, won by Dr. Harry Kretzler (on pole) of Washington, who became a Nat'l Vice Commander in 1960. Below, the 1922 track championship pennant. Bushy-haired man in center looks like the late baseball czar Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, but is not identified.



The late Alvin Owsley (Tex.) at New Orleans, where he became Nat'l Cmdr.

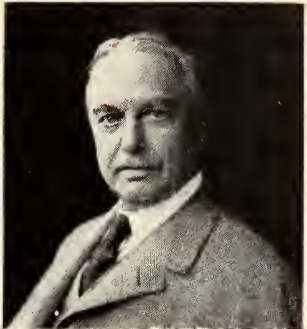


The first National Commander, Franklin D'Olier



At New Orleans in 1968 Legionnaires enjoyed air-conditioned motels with swimming pools. But in 1922 the Vermonters starting their day above came in a freight car and lived in it at the New Orleans railway yards.

Vermont Legionnaires performed one of the first militant local actions of the Legion on behalf of disabled veterans on the stage of their first state Legion convention, Oct. 30, 1919. They politely but firmly censured their Governor, Percival Clement. He was forced to retract a callous and insulting letter he'd written refusing to cooperate with a national agency seeking outdoor jobs for shell-shocked WWI veterans in Vermont. Governor Clement meant well, but suffered from a common bias that shell-shocked soldiers were just loafers. Col. H. Nelson Jackson, of Burlington (in photo below), and Dr. John Thomas, President of Middlebury College, led the Vermont Legion in forcing Clement to retract.



Vermont Gov. Clement, 1919.



Legion leaders at the funeral of President Woodrow Wilson, Feb. 23, 1924. From left to right, Thomas W. Miller (Del.); Franklin D'Olier (Pa.), the first National Commander; John Quinn (Calif.), then Nat'l Commander; H. Nelson Jackson (Vt.), then a Nat'l Vice Commander, and James A. Drain (D.C.), who would be the next National Commander. Quinn and Miller survive and are still active in the Legion.

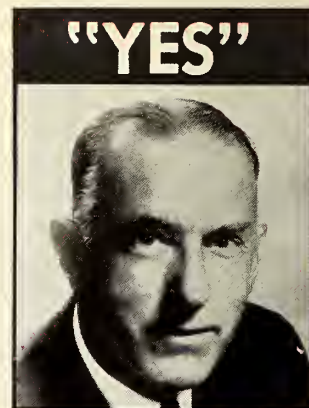


(hands clasped, center) visits first South Dakota state Legion convention, meeting at the Elks Club in Watertown, S.D., August 24, 1920.



Opposing Views by Congressmen on The Question...

SHOULD THE NATIONAL LABOR



Sen. Paul J. Fannin
(R-Ariz.)

TODAY THERE is a growing tendency for people in our government agencies to substitute their conception of law for the intent of Congress in writing the law. The prime example is the National Labor Relations Board.

The N.L.R.B. is an agency created by Congress to administer the National Labor Relations Act. But the N.L.R.B. has been particularly flagrant in twisting the law to reach results completely contrary to Congressional intent.

One Board member, Gerald A. Brown, is frank to admit the Board's arrogation of power when he publicly says: "The Board is unquestionably a policy making tribunal. The Board has freed itself from the self-inflicted dedication to *per se* rules." In other words, in the field of labor relations, the law is whatever the Labor Board says it is.

Last year, before the Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, I gave the following testimony:

"Mr. Chairman, I find particularly disturbing the Board's decisions denying employees the right to be free from union pressures. Thus, a recent 5-4 decision of the Supreme Court (Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.) upheld a Board decision that fines imposed by a union on its members for crossing a picket line were proper and did not amount to restraint and coercion within the meaning of the Act. The dissenting opinion pointed out that the majority of the Court had ignored *the literal language—in order to give unions a power which the Court but not Congress thinks they need.* This is a prime example of the flouting of Congressional intent by the Board and the Court. It is insulting to the Congress to assume that it would condone a policy of permitting unions to fine employees for exercising the

very rights which Congress gave them."

A defense of the N.L.R.B. quite often contains statistical data showing numerical impartiality in decisions affecting labor vs. management, plus a low percentage of reversals by upper courts. The hooker in these facts is the failure to cite the preponderance of precedent-setting cases decided in a very one-sided manner, and the fact that many courts view the Board as an expert body and are understandably quite reluctant to substitute their own judgment for that of the Board.

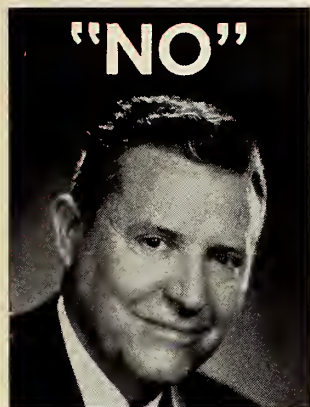
If we are to obtain and protect the rights of all involved in the administration of labor law there is little question that steps must be taken to correct the almost hopeless bias of the present Board. Presently, the imbalance in labor-management relations flowing from decisions of the N.L.R.B. is probably the greatest long-term threat confronting the American economy.

To my mind, members of the Board and decisions of the Board have themselves given complete evidence of the need to revamp the workings of labor law so as to secure the rights of the workingman and the businessman as Congress intended.

Paul Fannin

If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this big

RELATIONS BOARD BE REVAMPED?



Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough
(D-Tex.)

THE NATIONAL LABOR Relations Board is one of the smallest yet one of the most important of the federal agencies. It was created by Congress in 1935 and assigned the difficult job of umpiring labor disputes under the rules of fair play set forth in the National Labor Relations Act. In three short decades this agency and this law have helped achieve a

great measure of labor peace in our society, and they have further served the public interest by protecting the legitimate rights of individual workers, employers and unions alike.

The key principles of the law are majority rule and good-faith collective bargaining. Under these principles, more than 25 million employees have freely chosen in N.L.R.B. elections whether or not they wish to be represented for collective bargaining with their employers. The result has been that labor disputes in America increasingly have been solved by the parties themselves, freely, voluntarily and usually without strikes or friction. This is a remarkable record in which labor and management have shared responsibility for important progress.

Despite this record, the N.L.R.B. has been constantly criticized—from the day it was created—by those who have wanted to “revamp” or even to abolish it. The best explanation for most of this criticism is simply that the Board is the umpire of tough, controversial

and often emotional labor disputes. It has almost become a traditional pastime to heckle this umpire—under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Those who heckle the N.L.R.B. are parties who have lost cases, parties who don’t like the laws which Congress has passed and misguided parties who believe that the umpire is “biased.”

Congress provided that the federal courts would review and supervise the work of the Board, and the courts have upheld the Board in the very cases which are usually cited as examples of the Board’s “bias.” In the last two terms of the Supreme Court, the Board had a perfect record, winning nine out of nine cases. Year after year, the federal courts have approved the N.L.R.B.’s decisions in over 80% of its cases in whole or in part. The results of this judicial test show that the Board has been faithful to the words and the intent of Congress. Most scholars also believe that the Board has administered the law with fairness and integrity.

The N.L.R.B. may not be perfect. No agency of the government is. But it does not need “revamping” in the way which its critics propose. By “revamping” they do not seek to improve labor relations in the U.S. but to weaken our unique system of labor relations.

I believe that the record which the N.L.R.B. has made in the last 33 years in this sensitive area of our national life is such as to entitle it to support and continued existence. It should not be weakened or destroyed under any “revamping” theory.

Ralph W. Yarborough



I have read in The American Legion Magazine for March the arguments in PRO & CON: Should The National Labor Relations Board Be Revamped?

IN MY OPINION THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD SHOULD BE ☐ SHOULD NOT BE ☐ REVAMPED.

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____

You can address any Representative c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; any Senator c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

issue, fill out the “ballot” and mail it to him. →



The C.S.S. Merrimac (rechristened the Virginia, a name which people ignored) and the U.S.S. Monitor (right) fire point-blank during battle of

*A look at the historic first battle between ironclads which
told the eclipse of the wooden ship from the world's great navies.*

By **PAUL DITZEL**

THE CIVIL WAR naval battles of Hampton Roads off Norfolk and Newport News, Va., lasted only two days and ended with the famous fight between the ironclads *Monitor* and *Merrimac*. That was time enough to doom wooden warships, though Civil War buffs still argue about who won.

This first clash of ironclads was long in the making but swift in its final drama.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the North had imposed a blockade of the Southern coast from Virginia to the Gulf States. By early January 1862, the blockade's strength and effectiveness caused Gen. Robert E. Lee to observe that "Wherever [the Union's] fleet can be brought, no opposition to his landing

can be made . . . We have nothing to oppose to its heavy guns, which sweep over the low banks of this country with irresistible force."

In short, if the Confederacy didn't do something about the Union Navy, the war might take the course of Northern amphibious invasions anywhere in Southern coasts from Virginia to Texas. The dark shadow of this "ceaseless pres-

THE FANTASTIC STRUGGLES OF The Monitor and The Merrimac



March 9, 1862, at Newport News, Va. When ships retired at end of the four-hour clash, neither side could claim victory.

ence" also fell across the desk of Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Confederate States Navy.

Mallory, a former U.S. Senator from Florida and Chairman of the Senate's Naval Affairs Committee, entered the Confederate government on March 20, 1861. He was well versed in advanced naval experiments. While still in Congress, he had written: "I regard the possession of an iron-armored ship as a matter of the first necessity. Such a vessel . . . could traverse the entire coast, prevent all blockades, and encounter a fair prospect of success . . . Naval success dictates the wisdom and expediency of

fighting with iron against wood."

Now, with only a fragmented Southern fleet to send against the Union's 100 steam and sailing frigates, brigs, sloops and other men-of-war, Mallory prepared to act on his earlier proposals for the U.S. Navy and build a fleet of ironclads to break the North's stronghold. As a start, two iron ships were to be built at New Orleans and Mobile.

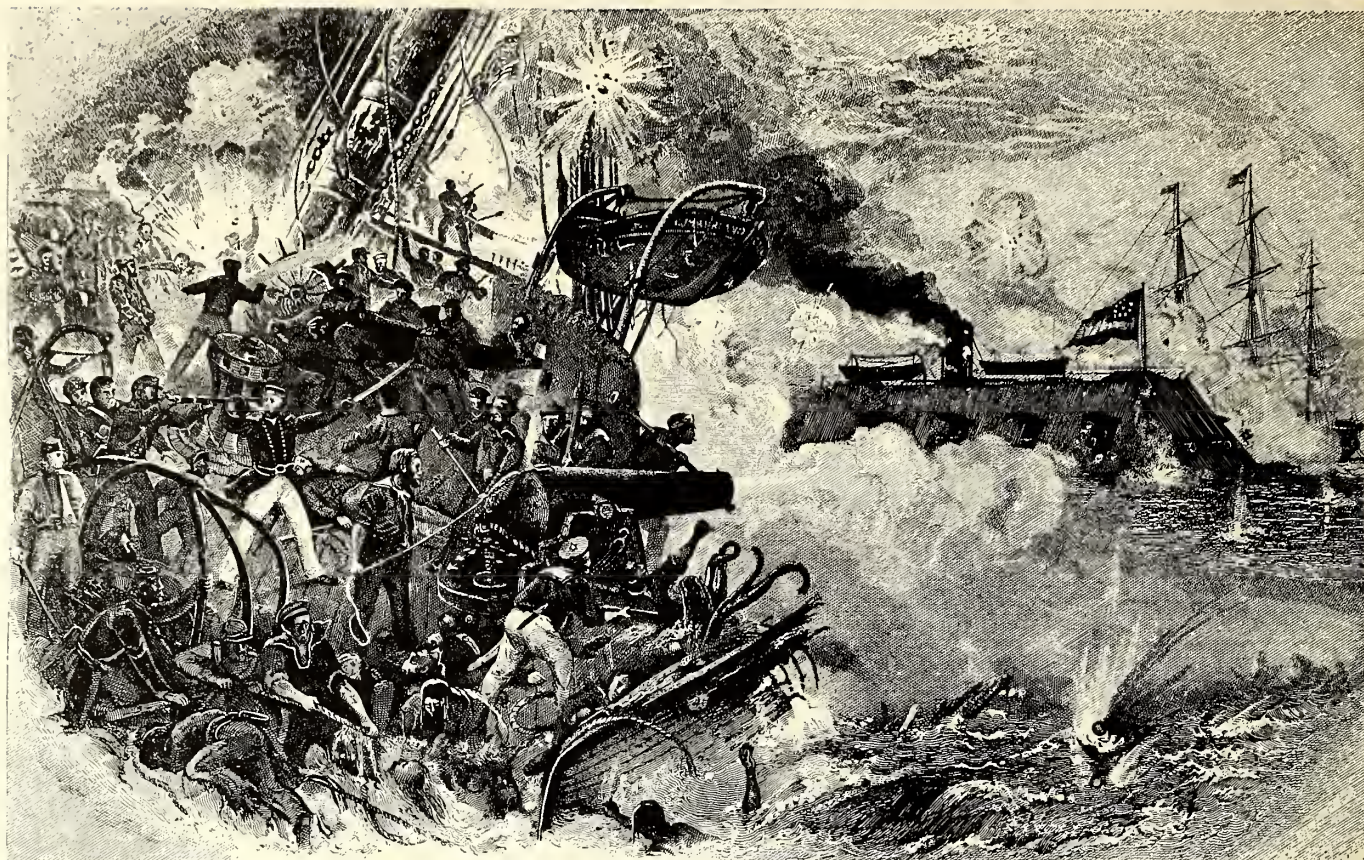
A third would be made from the raised hulk of the old Union frigate *Merrimac*, lodging at Norfolk's navy yard. The federals had burned and scuttled her when evacuating Norfolk.

In a report of July 18, 1861, Mallory

informed the Confederate War Department of his plans to convert the *Merrimac*, concluding: "As time is of the first consequence in this enterprise, I have not hesitated to commence the work and to ask Congress for the necessary appropriations."

By the middle of July, some 1,500 Southern workers in Norfolk were remodeling the *Merrimac*, while at Richmond's Tredegar Iron Works furnaces blazed night and day to supply the 1,000 tons of iron needed.

The mighty vessel was shaved down to within three and a half feet of her waterline. Her live-oak hull, 275 feet long, and



The U.S.S. *Cumberland* is sunk by the *Merrimac*, March 8, 1862. This action underscored plight of a wooden ship facing an ironclad.

CONTINUED

The Fantastic Struggles of The Monitor and The Merrimac

38½ feet wide, was covered with a platform on which was centered a mount-shaped citadel, or super-structure, 160 feet long and rounded at the ends.

The seven-foot-high sides of the structure were sloped at a 45-degree angle to deflect projectiles. Beneath a four-inch layer of iron plates covering the structure was an underlayer of 20-inch-thick heart pine and four inches of oak. The deck atop the citadel was covered with iron grating for ventilation. Inside the superstructure were ten guns: a seven-inch Brooke rifle mounted on pivots at either end and, in each broadside, a six-inch Brooke and three nine-inch Dahlgren smoothbores.

Mounted at her prow was a massive iron ram to punch holes in the wooden sides of Union warships. Pig iron ballast was stowed in the hull to keep the *Merrimac* low enough in the water to put her guns in point-blank range of the wooden hulls and to put her ram several feet below their water level.

The *Merrimac's* original engines were retained in spite of several breakdowns. (They had been condemned, and she was in Norfolk awaiting new ones when war broke out.) The engineers converting her did what they could to repair them, but at best the engines could only manage five knots.

The activity in Norfolk and Richmond

could not be kept a secret. Reports to Washington on an "infernal machine" being built that looked powerful enough to challenge the Union Navy were noted by Mr. Lincoln's War Department. But it was not until more detailed intelligence offered evidence of what Mallory was up to that Washington acted. On August 3, 1861, more than two months after construction on the *Merrimac* began, Congress directed U.S. Navy Sec'y Gideon Welles to appoint a three-member board to "investigate" the feasibility of ironclads for the Union Navy.

In Richmond, Mallory learned of the Union action, but was not too concerned. The Northern board would consume time making its report and it should be many months after that before the U.S. Navy could launch an answer to the *Merrimac*. Meanwhile, work on his own ironclad surged ahead.

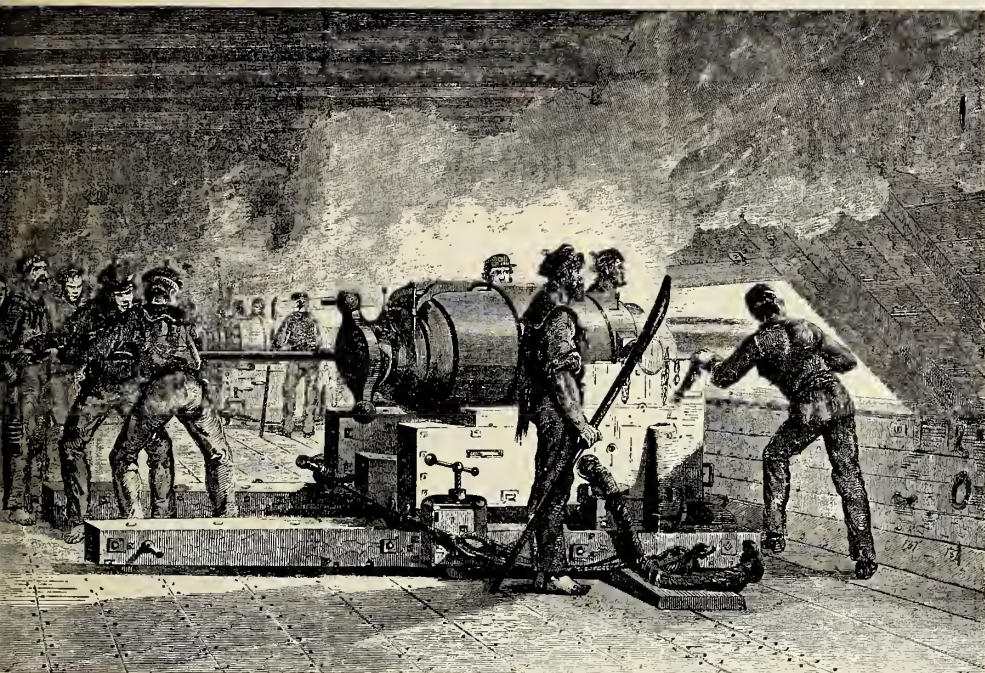
The three-man Union board obliged him even more. After considering 15 types of proposed ironclads and one rubberclad ship, they finally settled on two conventional warships whose wooden sides would be girdled with iron. Congress appropriated funds to build them, and only an accident intervened to steer the Navy from what could have been a disastrous decision.

Cornelius S. Bushnell, of New Haven, was awarded one of the contracts for the

two new wooden ships. He happened to show the design to John Ericsson, a Swedish immigrant inventor who was better known than respected in the Navy Department. Ericsson had designed the first screw-propelled warship for the Navy—the U.S.S. *Princeton*. During a demonstration of the *Princeton* for a presidential party in 1844 a cannon exploded. President John Tyler escaped injury, but Sec'y of State Abel Upshur, Navy Sec'y Thomas Gilmer and two congressmen were killed.

Ericsson was not to blame for the accident, but he was tarred with the disaster and the Navy refused to pay him for his work. He sued, failed to collect, and became known as a troublemaker in the Navy Department. Some years later he built a model for an ironclad floating battery, and seven years before the Civil War, disdaining the U.S. Navy, he offered it to Napoleon III. Napoleon couldn't use it, but he was so impressed that he awarded Ericsson a medal for excellence.

At the start of the Civil War Ericsson had offered the same design to President Lincoln, but, getting no answer from the White House, he let the matter drop. Now, when Bushnell showed him his design for an iron-girdled conventional warship, Ericsson trotted out his cardboard model of the ironclad battery that



Confederate seamen load *Merrimac's* big guns, but shells only dented *Monitor's* hull.

N.Y. PUBLIC LIBRARY PICTURE COLLECTION



Monitor's Captain Worden is blinded when rebel shell penetrates open viewing slit.

had won him a French medal. Bushnell was impressed with the strange looking thing that was later likened to a tin can on a shingle or a cheesebox on a raft. He borrowed the model and showed it to Navy Secretary Welles, who brought it to the attention of Lincoln and the three-man board.

After examining it, President Lincoln remarked, "All I have to say is what the girl said when she put her foot into the stocking. 'It strikes me there's something in it.'" The board, however, was certain it would capsize. Recalling the *Princeton* episode, they sent Bushnell on his way. "Take it home and worship it," Commander Charles H. Davis told him. "It will not be idolatry. It is in the image of nothing in the heaven above, or the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth."

But Bushnell persisted, and finally persuaded Welles and the board to hear Ericsson himself. On the morning of Sept. 13, 1861, Ericsson came to Welles' office and launched a two-hour defense of his floating iron battery. He was so persuasive that afterward Commodore Hiram Paulding, a member of the board, said to him, "I have learned more about the stability of a vessel from what you have said than I ever knew before."

By now the Navy Department had enough intelligence from Norfolk to feel that the Southern monster a-building there was genuine. They told Ericsson to go ahead, and they'd even name his craft the *Ericsson*. Start right away, they told him. The contract and the money would follow later.

The race to catch the *Merrimac* was on at last, amid a growing sense of alarm as more details of the Confederate ironclad flowed in.

The *Ericsson's* keel was laid on October 25, 1861. Ericsson's contract with the Navy specified that construction be completed within 100 working days, an almost impossible undertaking that he confidently accepted. She was launched on the 98th day, January 30, 1862.

Shortly before the launching, Ericsson suggested another name for the vessel: "This structure will admonish the leaders of the Southern Rebellion that the batteries on the banks of their rivers will no longer present barriers to the entrance of the Union forces. The ironclad intruder will thus prove a severe monitor to those leaders . . . I propose to name the new battery *Monitor*."

The bulk of the *Monitor* was built at the Continental Iron Works at the foot of Calyer Street in Brooklyn. The gun turret was built at a foundry appropriately called the Novelty Iron Works in New York. The iron plating came from the Albany Iron Works and smaller components from foundries as distant as Buffalo, N.Y., and Portsmouth, N.H.

The *Monitor* was 172 feet long (103 feet shorter than the *Merrimac*) with a beam of 41 feet. The "raft" rose only about a foot above the water. It was encased in iron and supported by a lower hull 122 feet long and 34 feet wide. It drew 10 to 12 feet of water.

Mounted amidships was a circular turret 20 feet in diameter and nine feet tall. The drum-shaped turret, encased in iron plates riveted together, formed a sandwich eight inches thick—twice that of the *Merrimac's* armor. Seated in a bronze ring inset in the deck, the turret rotated by means of a small steam engine. Although the *Merrimac* mounted ten guns, the *Monitor* carried but a pair of 11-inch Dahlgren smoothbores, sufficient, it was thought, to demolish the rebel ship.

Fifty-five feet forward of the turret was the pilothouse, a squat box, three and a half feet long, two feet eight inches wide and slightly less than four feet high. Only the captain's and pilot's head and shoulders would be above deck and they would be protected by solid, nine-inch-thick blocks of wrought iron held together by three-inch bolts. A $\frac{5}{8}$ inch slit was cut into the box. At 200 yards, it afforded a view 80 feet high. (Against Ericsson's protests, and with subsequent near-fatal results, the slit was widened to about one inch.) The battery's twin steam boilers were mounted aft under a collapsible smokestack. Air was sucked in through deck vents.

Confederate spies were busy learning all this about the *Monitor*. Their work was considerably simplified when Ericsson, goaded by recurrent criticism of his contract, supplied the *Scientific American* magazine with complete details and drawings of his battery. A rebel spy urged that the *Merrimac's* ram should

The Fantastic Struggles of The Monitor and The Merrimac

he lengthened to sink the *Monitor*. The Southern ship's ram was, accordingly, extended out to four feet—a blunder as it would turn out.

The *Monitor's* 56-man crew was selected from Navy volunteers. Her commander, Lieutenant John Worden, was 44 and had held his rank for 20 years. He had yet to command his own ship. He had just been released from an Alabama POW camp and, although ailing, was known for his courage. He had requested the *Monitor* assignment before her keel was laid.

The 350-man crew of the *Merrimac* was recruited from army volunteers, since there were few men in the Confederacy with previous sea experience. Mallory appointed as skipper the 62-year-old founder of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Franklin Buchanan. A Navy veteran of 47 years, Buchanan resigned his commission in 1861 when it appeared that his native Maryland would secede. Later, he withdrew his resignation, but Secretary Welles refused him and the elderly Buchanan went south.

In spite of Mallory's confidence that the U.S. Navy could not produce a challenger for the *Merrimac* in time to save the fleet at Hampton Roads, the *Monitor* was turned over to the government on February 25, 1862, a few weeks before the completion of the *Merrimac*. On Thursday, March 6, 1862, following orders from Sec'y of War Edwin Stanton in Washington, who feared it might already be too late to stop the *Merrimac*, she sailed for Newport News.

The *Merrimac* was completed on March 5, 1862. Three days later, she left her haven in the Elizabeth River and headed for Newport News and its Union fleet.

Anchored under the protection of the federal fortifications at Newport News was a fleet of about a dozen wooden-hulled Union ships and gunboats. Altogether they mounted more than 200 guns and effectively blockaded the entrance to Norfolk and Richmond. Mightiest of the blockaders was the 30-gun *Cumberland*, a sailing sloop-of-war which lay 30 yards off Newport Point. Strung out in a line east of her were the frigate *Congress*, with 50 guns; and two sister frigates of the old *Merrimac*: the 47-gun *Minnesota* and the 46-gun *Roanoke*. Lastly was the *St. Lawrence*, a 52-gun frigate. Beyond these ships lay five gunboats.



The *Monitor's* crew emerges from below-deck quarters for a breather. Note dents on turret (on officer's right in background), slight results of *Merrimac's* broadsides.

For months their crews had heard reports of the rebel ironclad, but nobody had seen her and it was beginning to appear as if no one ever would.

March 8 dawned clear and mild and gave promise of being a dreary repetition of other days during the endless months that had passed. The tedium was broken only by the knowledge that this was laundry day. By mid-morning, the rigging of the *Cumberland* and the other ships was hung with freshly-laundered clothing flapping in the breeze. Many aboard the *Cumberland* dove overboard for a morning swim before the noon mess call. If life had become lethargic for them, at least they were eating well. The fare aboard the *Cumberland* that Saturday was roast beef. For more than 100 of her crew, it was to be their final meal.

Forty minutes past the noon hour, the lookout aboard the small support steamship *Mount Vernon* noticed a plume of black smoke moving from Norfolk. The *Mount Vernon* hoisted Signal No. 551, "Coming enemy vessel is." Five minutes passed. The *Mount Vernon's* officers watched for an acknowledgement from the *Cumberland* and the frigates. None came. They fired a shot in the direction of the smoke. Still no response from the other ships. Not until 1:10 p.m.—half an hour after the signal flag was raised—did the *Roanoke* finally acknowledge.

By now the smoke could be seen coming from a stack aft of a most peculiar

looking vessel. The lookout raised his glass for a better look. The *Merrimac*! The alarm was quickly relayed among the fleet. Laundry was hauled in, drummers beat to quarters, the ships cleared for action and the guns were run out.

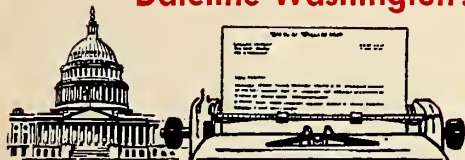
Meanwhile, the *Merrimac* was proving "as unmanageable as a water-logged vessel." Four men struggled with her wheel. Because of her deep draft, Buchanan had purposely timed his attack for the 1:40 p.m. high tide.

Calling his crew of former soldiers together, Buchanan said: "Sailors, in a few minutes you will have the long-looked-for opportunity of showing your devotion to our cause. Remember that you are about to strike for your country and your homes. The Confederacy expects every man to do his duty . . . and you shall not complain that I do not take you in close enough. Go to your guns!"

At ten minutes past 2 o'clock, the sluggish *Merrimac* crawled past the *Congress*, which opened with a solid shot from her stern gun. "It glanced off her forward casement like a drop of water from a duck's back," a crewman later wrote. The *Cumberland*, realizing she was the *Merrimac's* prey, blazed away. The frigates *Minnesota* and *St. Lawrence* made ready to join the battle, but for some unexplained reason, both moved too close to shore and went aground. They were out of the fight. The *Roanoke*, laid up with a broken propeller

(Continued on page 51)

Dateline Washington....THE NEW LEFT'S NEW TACTICS



LABOR RELATIONS IN '69

LATIN AMERICAN DILEMMA

The basic objective of both the New Left and the old-line Communists and their adherents in the United States is to destroy our form of government completely, according to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. He believes that the distinction between communists with a small "c" and Communists with a capital "C" is "irrelevant."

The FBI chief warns that there has been, in recent months, a marked increase in bombings and burnings of public buildings and other acts of terrorism as the New Left turns from so-called passive dissent to direct disruption of the defense effort.

Core of the New Left is the Students for a Democratic Society, which in 1968 led the campus violence and which advocates "revolutionary communism." Both the old-line Communist Party, oriented to Moscow, and the Progressive Labor Party, which looks to Red China, are infiltrating the New Left, with the Mao-Marxists scoring considerable success, Director Hoover reports.

Washington observers believe that 1969 will be a quiet year for organized labor--except for intensified infighting between George Meany, invincible AFL-CIO boss, and Walter Reuther, indomitable United Auto Workers chief. Reuther is determined to build up a rival, more social-problem-oriented House of Labor.

Congress will get a rash of bills calling for compulsory strike arbitration, limitations on unionization activities and restrictions on the National Labor Relations Board. Observers feel that President Nixon, with a tight election victory behind him, a Democratic Congress facing him and a host of other urgent problems, is unlikely to get involved in a legislative hassle over union rights.

Disappointment in the Alliance for Progress aid program, sponsored by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, is shared by the United States and Latin America. The new Administration would like to develop a program based more on self-help than on handout, on trade than on aid . . . something more easily said than done.

With the rising tide of protectionism and increasing disillusionment over so-called "free trade," the Nixon Administration is limited in proffering a generous hand to the under-developed countries of Latin America. Congress, dismayed by the spread of militarist governments, is in a mood to reduce our military aid, too.

As a result, there's fear here that the friction will increase between our Good Neighbors and Uncle Sam; that there'll be a turning to the left, and, left or right, a sharp rise in "anti-gringo" sentiment. The Communists, led by Russia, are already seeking to exploit this Latin mood on the trade level.

PEOPLE AND QUOTES

LIFE INSURANCE FOR U.S.

"I look on the Apollo program and the space program as technical life insurance for the future of this country."

Astronaut Frank Borman.

SPACE SURPRISES

"Just like any other revealing of secrets by man, the space flights are journeys into the unknown in which surprises are possible even after the most careful preparations."

Soviet Cosmonaut Titov.

WORDS WON'T HURT

"It's seldom that you cause wars by talking to people and you sometimes avoid it."

Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.).

VEEP QUALIFICATION

"If you can't develop a little skin, enough to take reverses, you can't hold on to this job."

Vice President Agnew.

TV NEWS REPORT

"Objectivity is impossible to a normal human being. Fair-

ness, however, is attainable, and that's what we strive for. . . ."

TV Newscaster David Brinkley.

EARTH HABITATION

"The man of flesh and bone will not be much impressed by the fact that a few of his contemporaries can explore the moon . . . if the planet Earth has become unfit for human life."

Rene Jules Dubos,
Prof., Rockefeller Univ.

GO SOFTLY

"My own philosophy on the question of Government intervention in major (labor) disputes is to go very softly."

Sec'y of Labor George Schultz

LESS VIOLENCE

"My own belief is that there is less violence today than there was 100 years ago, but that we have a much better press and communications to report it."

Dr. Karl Menninger,
noted psychiatrist.

NEWSLETTER

A DIGEST OF EVENTS WHICH
ARE OF PERSONAL INTEREST TO YOU

MARCH 1969

WIDE RANGE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BILLS INTRODUCED EARLY IN 91ST CONGRESS:

Among the more than 5,000 measures introduced for action in the first session of the 91st Congress in January, there are a great many of interest to veterans . . . In no particular order of importance, here's the gist of some of the proposed bills:

Would ease present restrictions cemetery system under the control of the Veterans Administration . . .

Would ease present restrictions regarding eligibility for burial in Arlington Nat'l Cemetery . . . Would increase by \$75 the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation payable to a widow disabled to the extent of being in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person . . . Would provide that funds inherited from bank accounts jointly or separately owned shall not be counted as income for death or disability pension or for dependency and indemnity compensation purposes . . .

Would provide a seven-year presumptive period for service-connected progressive muscular atrophy which develops to a compensable degree within that period . . . Would restore to widows entitlement to veterans benefits upon termination of a remarriage . . . Would increase from \$250 to \$400 the amount the VA may pay on expenses associated with the funeral and burial of a veteran . . .

Would provide that a veteran suffers no loss of benefits who receives a conditional discharge or release on the condition that he immediately re-enter service (under existing law this is counted as one period of service and frequently results in loss of benefits to veterans who had honorable wartime service but whose death or disability in peacetime service is considered to be due to his own misconduct.) . . . Would provide payment of a monthly clothing allowance to service-connected disabled veterans who regularly wear a prosthetic appliance which results in exceptional wear or tear on clothing . . . Would increase from \$10,000 to \$30,000 the amount of Serviceman's Group Life Insurance which may be carried by persons on active duty . . . Would raise the VA to the status of an executive department of the government to be known as the Department of Veterans

Affairs . . . Would provide additional dependence and indemnity compensation payments for widows with one or more children . . . Would ease provisions relating to death and disability pension . . . Would make Vietnam Era veterans eligible for all noncompensable dental disabilities found to be present within one year after discharge . . . Would increase the assistance payable by the VA toward the purchase price of specially equipped automobiles for certain disabled veterans . . . Would repeal the restriction of payment of dependency and indemnity compensation in cases involving in-service waiver of government life insurance premiums . . . Would provide that the effective date of reduction or discontinuance of pension by reason of death of dependent shall be the last day of the sixth month following the month in which death occurred . . . Would provide that the War Claims Act of 1948 be amended to include American prisoners of war captured during the Vietnam War so that they or their survivors may receive compensation . . .

Would create a Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs . . . Would amend the Cold War GI Bill to increase the rates of educational assistance allowance paid to veterans and broaden the scope and accessibility of the present flight training provisions.

MEET THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE AND SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Here are the Chairmen of the Congressional committees concerned with veterans affairs in the 91st Congress:

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Olin E. Teague (Tex.) is Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs . . . A Legionnaire, Chmn Teague is a WW2 wounded and disabled veteran of infantry service in Europe . . .

In the Senate, Sen. Alan M. Cranston (Calif.) is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare . . . Sen. Cranston is also a WW2 veteran and a Legionnaire . . . This subcommittee is only one of several handling veterans affairs in the Senate . . . The Legion has long called for a separate, full Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs . . . A bill has been introduced to that effect.

NEWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

MARCH, 1969

Legion Calls For Increased Contacts With Vietnam Vets

"Flying Task Force" formed to help Legion departments establish or expand post contact and service programs for 800,000 Vietnam Era veterans who return to civilian life each year; 1969 national enrollments climbing.

At meetings held in January at Nat'l Hq, the Membership & Post Activities Committee of The American Legion announced the formation of a "flying task force" designed to help departments bolster their Vietnam veteran contact and service programs.

Though national enrollments were moving along at a fine clip and smashed target quotas were already indicating that 1969 overall would probably be an even bigger membership year than 1968, M & PA experts at Nat'l Hq were disappointed with the progress of the program to contact and assist the newest war veterans. This program was insti-

tuted in mid-1968 when the Veterans Administration offered to provide 70-80,000 names and addresses per month of returning servicemen with the idea that Legion groups would contact these ex-servicemen to assist them in getting job or education and other benefits. Surveys now indicate that many posts are not using the contact lists effectively and that some are not using them at all.

Seeing high promise for the program when it began, the then Nat'l Cmdr William E. Galbraith, said: "Despite the best efforts of the armed forces, the VA, the Employment Service, and other Federal agencies, too many of these young vet-

erans are not being brought back into the mainstream of American life with the benefits, the job or the education that will assure their becoming productive, stable citizens. Without jobs and other readjustment assistance, their prospects for the future are not good. Yet their service in time of war deserves the best our society can offer . . . We must provide the friendly, personal visit that causes something good to happen. . ."

But it was just that "friendly, personal visit" that M & PA officials felt was most missing. Hence, the formation of the "flying task force," a group of national field representatives and membership consultants which would be available to Legion departments to provide whatever assistance is needed to establish or expand post and district Vietnam veteran contact and service programs.

Noting that the fundamental reason for the establishment of the Legion back in 1919 was its idea of mutual assistance of veteran to veteran, the Committee urged Legion posts everywhere to intensify their efforts to reach these new war veterans and render whatever serv-

U.S. Postage Stamp Commemorating the Legion Goes on Sale March 15

The design for The American Legion's 50th Anniversary U.S. postage stamp (see photo) was released on Jan. 18 by outgoing U.S. Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson.

First Day of Issue of the new 6-cent stamp will take place on the Legion's 50th Birthday March 15, 1969, at a ceremony in the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Legion's Ninth Midwinter Conference being held there.

Dominating the design of the vertical stamp is an eagle, the national bird pictured on the Great Seal of the United States. The eagle clutches an olive branch, the heraldic symbol of peace.

At the top of the stamp, in red, are the words "The American Legion." Beside the eagle's wing, in blue, is "50 years." Beneath the olive branch, in red, is "Veterans as Citizens." Across the bottom in blue, is "U.S. Postage 6 cents." The shield on the eagle's breast is red, white and blue.

To complement the new stamp on its first day of issue, the Legion has produced a First Day Cachet, which is a specially printed "cover" or envelope. It is a standard-sized (6½ x 3½ inch) collector's cacheted envelope made by Cover Craft Cachets of Paterson, N.J. The "cachet" (or illustration) consists



of an engraved, three-color, original design featuring The American Legion Emblem. The envelope will contain a "filler" card bearing information about the Legion's aims and activities.

When stamped with the new Legion stamp and cancelled with the "First Day of Issue" postmark, a first day cover represents the stamp's birth certificate, since it authoritatively documents all the facts concerning the new stamp.

Those who want the official American Legion cacheted First Day Cover should order early. A limited number will be

produced and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Envelopes were scheduled to be ready for delivery about February 1, in time to allow purchasers to address and return any to the Washington, D.C., Post Office for the first day cancellation before the deadline of March 15.

Prices of the "blank" (without stamp) Legion cacheted envelopes are: one for 25¢; two for 35¢; three for 50¢; four for 65¢; five for 80¢; ten for \$1.50. Legion posts and Auxiliary units may purchase these envelopes at 10¢ each in lots of 100 or more.

Orders and inquiries should be mailed well before March 15 to: American Legion First Day Cover, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Be sure to include a postal money order to cover the number of envelopes desired, payable to "The American Legion." Also, for orders of less than ten cachets, send a stamped, self-addressed return envelope, marked "Do Not Bend."

The next step is to get the cachets stamped and cancelled with the postmark, "First Day of Issue" via the Postmaster, Washington, D.C. Explicit instructions for that will be included with each order of cachets the Legion sends out.

ices they may need. The Committee stressed that the basis of this program should be "service first, membership second."

The "task force" is scheduled to report on its progress at the Midwinter Conference and 50th Legion Birthday Celebration during the week of March 10-15 in Washington, D.C.

With Nat'l Membership Chmn William G. Gormley (Pa.) presiding, the Committee, among other items, established a direct correlation between the veteran contact program—which will be needed on a continuing basis—and the theme approved for the 1970 membership campaign entitled "Decision Now."

Said Chmn Gormley: "Today, and in the immediate tomorrows, Legionnaires from thousands of posts will be making decisions, either actively or by default, that will determine the future of their posts. In many cases the decision will determine whether a post lives or dies. During the mid-40's many posts, in one way or another, reached the decision to form a team of the WW1 and WW2 veterans. From those posts has come the manpower, leadership and membership that has helped The American Legion retain its status as the No. 1 veterans' organization.

"Now it's that time again," he went on. "'Decision Now' simply tells us that the choice must be made now, not next year or the year after. Our first and immediate decision must be: Do we forget about 5 million new veterans except for the casual drop-ins or do we decide that here is the future of The American Legion and, perhaps, America?"

While the Committee approved the emphasis of the 1970 drive on service and assistance to the newest generation of veterans, it also called for a well-balanced enrollment program geared for war veterans of all ages.

Legion History Contests

The American Legion's 1969 Department and Post History Contests are now open.

Deadline for entries in both contests is July 1, 1969. Entries should be sent to the National Historian's Office at National Headquarters by that date.

The Department Contest is designed for two types of entries: histories covering the entire period, from inception to any time subsequent to the 1964 history contest; the other is restricted to a supplement to a previous history, provided it takes up where the other left off and covers at least 10 years.

First awards will be \$200 for Type I and \$100 for Type II. Second-place awards are \$125 for Type I and \$75 for Type II.

(Continued on page 39, col.3)

Legion Honored 78 Employers During 1968 For Hiring Handicapped and Older Workers

National American Legion citations for good employment practices were awarded to 78 employers around the nation during 1968 with 42 firms honored for their practices in hiring the handicapped, and 36 for hiring older workers.

The national awards are made on the recommendation of a state or other department organization of the Legion which nominates employers each year for the National-Hiring-The-Handicapped Award and the National Older-

Worker Citation. Awards are made by the Legion's National Economic Commission.

Handicapped awards are usually made in connection with the annual Employ the Handicapped Week and represent part of the Legion's participation in the programs of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped—while older worker awards are usually made in conjunction with the Legion's Hire the Older Worker Week.

State	Handicapped Award	Older Worker Award
ALABAMA	1. Southland Mower Co., Selma 2. Tim's Modern Cleaners, Fayette	Opelika Mfg. Co., Snowflake-Wolf Div., Phenix City
ALASKA	none	Juneau Cold Storage Co., Inc., Juneau
ARIZONA	First National Bank of Arizona, Phoenix	VA Hospital, Tucson
ARKANSAS	Addison Shoe Corp., Wynne	Camden Mfg. Co., Camden
CALIFORNIA	none	City of Modesto, Dept. of Parking & Traffic
COLORADO	Martin-Marietta Corp., Denver Division, Denver	Denver Hilton Hotel, Denver
CONNECTICUT	none	none
DELAWARE	Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, Dover	none
D. C.	Office of Selective Placement Projects, U.S. Civil Service Commission	Woodward & Lothrop, Inc.
FLORIDA	none	none
GEORGIA	none	Ward Wight Realty Co., Atlanta
HAWAII	Saga Food Co., Honolulu	Liberty House, Waialae Branch, Honolulu
IDAHO	Bannock County Memorial Hospital, Pocatello	none
ILLINOIS	Union Special Machine Co., Plant No. 2, Huntley	Motor Wheel Corp., Mendota
INDIANA	none	none
IOWA	Caterpillar Tractor Co., Davenport	Harrison & Co., Florists, Sioux City
KANSAS	Henry Corp., Topeka	Ramada Inn, Hays
KENTUCKY	Levi Strauss & Co., Florence	Island Creek Coal Co., Elkhorn Div., Wheelwright
LOUISIANA	1. Cotton Products Co., Inc., Opelousas 2. Lake Charles Charity Hospital, Lake Charles	Lockheed Aircraft Service Co., Avenue A, Chennault Field, Lake Charles
MAINE	T. M. Chapman Sons Co., Old Town	none
MARYLAND	none	none
MASSACHUSETTS	E. F. Laurence & Co., Inc., Northboro	Flavor Fresh Co., Lawrence
MICHIGAN	G. A. Ingram Co., Detroit	Ryco Engineering Co., Warren

MINNESOTA	none	R. J. Reynolds Foods, Inc., Duluth
MISSISSIPPI	1. The American Clean Linen Service, Gulfport 2. Magic Tunnel Car Wash, Hattiesburg	none
MISSOURI	none	none
MONTANA	Great Falls Fire Department	Jordan Newsstand, Glendive
NEBRASKA	Morton House Kitchens, Inc., Nebraska City	St. Vincent's Home for the Aged, Omaha
NEVADA	none	1. Pan American World Airways, Inc., Nuclear Rocket Development Station, Las Vegas 2. Sacoma Sierra, Inc., Carson City
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Ben's Auto Body, Inc., Portsmouth	Nashua Plastics Co., Inc., Nashua
NEW JERSEY	Stokes Laundry Co., Wildwood Crest	Monmouth Silversmiths Corp., Shrewsbury
NEW MEXICO	Tempo Department Store, Inc., Hobbs	K. L. Towle Construction Co., Hobbs
NEW YORK	Bulova Watch Co., of Queens	none
NORTH CAROLINA	1. National Weather Records Center, Asheville 2. William Fetner, Inc., Rockingham	Carolina Mills, Maiden
NORTH DAKOTA	none	none
OHIO	Senco Products, Inc., Cincinnati	Hydraulic Press Div., Koehring Co., Mount Gilead
OKLAHOMA	Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville	Serv-Air, Inc., Vance Air Force Base, Enid
OREGON	Oregon Technical Products Co., Grants Pass	Eugene F. Burrill Lumber Co., White City
PENNSYLVANIA	Eljer Plumbingware Div., Wallace-Murray Corp., Scranton	Bachman Brothers, Philadelphia
RHODE ISLAND	none	Rhode Island Hospital, Providence
SOUTH CAROLINA	none	none
SOUTH DAKOTA	Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan, Yankton	K. O. Lee Co., Aberdeen
TENNESSEE	Magnavox Co., Morristown	The Trane Co., Clarksville
TEXAS	1. Red River Army Depot, Texarkana 2. Texas Plastics, Inc., Elsa	1. Sakowitz, Inc., Houston 2. William J. Burns Int'l Detective Agency, Inc., El Paso
UTAH	Richfield Reaper, Richfield	Won Door Corp., Salt Lake City
VERMONT	Campbell Construction, Inc., Williston	none
VIRGINIA	H. B. Wilkins Co., Portsmouth	Titmus Optical Co., Petersburg
WASHINGTON	none	none
WEST VIRGINIA	Continental Can Co., Inc., Closure Plant 58, Wheeling	none
WISCONSIN	Crown Food Service, Wis. State U., Oshkosh	none
WYOMING	Unique Notions, Inc., Cheyenne	none

Entries in the Post History Contest should cover the entire period from the post's inception, to January 1, 1969. Entries will be judged on two types: (1) for posts chartered before 1944 and (2) those organized in 1944, or later, providing the post has been in existence at least five years.

First place awards will be \$150 for Type I and \$100 for Type II. Second-place awards will be \$100 for Type I and \$75 for Type II. Third-place awards are \$50 for Type I and \$25 for Type II.

Rules and regulations, including standards to be met, for both History Contests may be obtained by writing the National Historian's Office, American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

1969 Legion Oratorical Contests

The 32nd annual American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest Finals will be held April 24, 1969, at Capital High School, Boise, Idaho, under the sponsorship of the Department of Idaho.

Leading up to the finals will be local, district, state, regional and sectional elimination contests in which thousands of young high school students will compete in hopes of reaching the nationals where \$8,000 in Legion college scholarships awaits. First prize is \$4,000; 2nd, \$2,500; 3rd, \$1,000 and 4th, \$500.

Here are the sites for the Regional Contests to be held April 14: *Regional 1*, Boston College H.S., Dorchester, Mass.; *Regional 2*, West Warwick Senior H.S.; West Warwick, R.I.; *Regional 3*, Wm. Penn H.S., New Castle, Del.; *Regional 4*, Northwest Central H.S., Concord, N.C.; *Regional 5*, Alabama Educational Television Network, Birmingham, Ala.; *Regional 6*, Louisiana State U., Baton Rouge, La.; *Regional 7*, Indiana State U., Terre Haute, Ind.; *Regional 8*, Enid H.S., Enid, Okla.; *Regional 9*, Mitchell Senior H.S., Mitchell, S. Dak.; *Regional 10*, Central H.S., Cheyenne, Wyo.; *Regional 11*, Cleveland H.S., Portland, Ore.; *Regional 12*, Merced College, Merced, Calif.

Following the Regionals, here are the sites for the Sectional Contests to be held April 21:

Sectional A, New Paltz H.S., New Paltz, N.Y.; *Sectional B*, Weir H.S., Weirton, W. Va.; *Sectional C*, Tibbits Opera House, Coldwater, Mich.; *Sectional D*, Utah State U., Logan, Utah.

Full Speed into the 50th

As a gift to the Commonwealth of Virginia in observation of the Legion's 50th Anniversary, the **Dep't of Virginia** will erect a monument on Berkeley Plantation on the site where the Armed Forces' official "Taps" was composed

Missouri Legion To Erect 50th Anniversary Monument



Pictured here is an artist's rendition of the proposed monument which will be erected in St. Louis, Mo., by The American Legion of Missouri in commemoration of the Legion's 50th Anniversary. Part of the monument will house a time capsule containing items of Legion history and atop the monument will be a perpetual Flame of Freedom Torch. The whole complex will be dedicated at ceremonies on May 10, the 50th Anniversary of the original St. Louis Caucus, the first Legion meeting to be held on American soil. The National Executive Committee will hold its annual spring meeting there at that time along with other national committees and commissions of the Legion.

and first sounded in July 1862. The monument will be dedicated July 4 to the memory of American war dead. Berkeley Plantation was also the site of America's first Thanksgiving and the home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The cost of the monument will be paid for through donations from Legionnaires, local posts and Auxiliary units in Virginia.



Post 70, Mass.: 50-yr members, guests

Post 70, Norwood, Mass., invited former Senator Leverett Saltonstall, a 50-year Legionnaire, to speak to all of Norwood's WWI vets at a New England ham and bean dinner. The post's 41 50-year members were presented with special cards designating them as 50-year members by Cmdr Robert Paquette and Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman Dr. Charles Soforenko.

Post 32, Washington, D.C., celebrated with a buffet dinner dance at the U.S. Naval Medical Center. Chief Petty Officers Club, Bethesda, Md. Special guests of honor were some of the Vietnam vets from Bethesda Medical Center. In attendance were Dep't Cmdr Marshall Gardner, Dep't VC Thomas Gibbons, VC Bernice Ferrand, and Dep't Judge Advocate John Bohler.

Post 430, Portage, Pa., included a flag



Post 430, Pa.: flag-burning ceremony

burning ceremony (see photo) as part of its ceremonies. Also participating were Amvets and VFW posts.

Post 113, Virginia Beach, Va., staged an Anniversary Ball at Pembroke Mall.

Post 84, Lidgerwood, N.D., honored all its WWI members with a supper and a whist session. The speaker was 10th

Colt .45 Presentation



The photo above was taken at the Legion Nat'l Convention in New Orleans, Sept. 6-12, 1968. It shows then Nat'l Cmdr Wm. E. Galbraith accepting a Battle of Belleau Wood Commemorative Colt .45 being presented by Connecticut Dep't Cmdr Richard Heath for the Colt Firearms Co., located in that state. For a four-color, close-up view of this gun, turn to our second cover.

District Deputy Cmdr Phillip Wohlwerd.



Post 84, N.D.: supper and whist

Post 11, Brookline, Mass., staged a banquet which combined the following: annual Past Commanders/Past Presidents Banquet, 50th Anniversary of signing of Armistice, the beginning of The American Legion, and the 50th Anniversary of Post 11. The photo shows the post's 50-year members.



Post 11, Mass.: 50-yr members

The Stamp Society of **Post 799, Buffalo, N.Y.,** has dedicated its 13th annual show, on March 28-30, to the Anniversary. Some of the Society's members have accepted an invitation to attend ceremonies in Washington, D.C., on March 15 when the U. S. Post Office Dep't is scheduled to issue a special stamp commemorating the Legion's Golden Anniversary.

Westchester County, N.Y., plans a 50th Anniversary Party March 22 at the Westchester Country Club in Harrison, announces Past County Cmdr John Crago, of **North Castle Post 1097.** County Committee Chmn.

Post 83, Branford, Conn., will stage a 50th Ball in May.

Post 30, East Boston Mass., presented Appreciation Awards to George DeMayo and John Torrone, co-editors of the East Boston Times-Free Press, for their cooperation in supporting Legion programs. Gabriel Olga, Nat'l Executive Committeeman, made the presentation.

A Flag from Vietnam

"In South Vietnam, Hill 200 is a small knoll at the end of a ridgeline that runs north and south on the southwest side of the Song Vu Gia River. It is used as a combat observation post. To both the west and east you can observe at least two miles out into the valleys. These valleys are main VN/NVA routes into the Da Nang area."

Thus begins a letter to **Post 122, Brooklyn, N.Y.,** from 1st Lieut. P. R. Badger, U.S. Marine Corps, Executive Officer, Co E, 1st Reconnaissance Bn,

1st Marine Div. The post had requested a flag.

"On the night of 1 Aug 1968," Lieutenant Badger continues, "one of our teams, Flaky Snow, was manning the position. In the early hours of the morning, around 0400, the position was hit by an elite force of NVA sappers. The sappers penetrated the perimeter wire but were never able to take the hill. While the sappers were on the hill they put up an NVA flag. This was ripped down as soon as the reaction force landed to reinforce Flaky Snow. From that day forward *this American flag* flew on Hill 200. Flaky Snow took five killed in action and 11 wounded in action in that battle.

"On the night of 21 Aug 1968, Hill 200 was being manned by another of our company's teams, Rio Grande. At about 2100, we were taken under attack by an estimated reinforce platoon of sappers. The fire fight that ensued lasted for nine and one-half straight hours. This was a battalion record for the longest single combat engagement ever undertaken by a unit from the 1st Reconnaissance Bn.

"During this fire fight, the flag started to come untied from the pole. Staff Sgt. William G. Rash, Rio Grande patrol leader, jumped up on top of the bunker to retie the flag. The flag started to come untied a second time, jarred by a concussion grenade. Sergeant Rash again, with total disregard of the intense enemy automatic and semi-automatic fire, mounted the bunker and made fast our colors. He was killed later on in the engagement. Rio Grande brought this flag back to our company area. We hung it in memory of Sergeant Rash.

"When we received your letter, we felt that Sergeant Rash would have been proud to give you this flag. The flag originally belonged to Lance Cpl Schlicher, who was also wounded in action on Hill 200. So, in memory of Sergeant Rash and all our fallen comrades from Hill 200, we would like to present you with this flag. We hope that our flag will serve the purpose you have in mind. Echo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Bn, is very happy to have been of service. We would also like to thank you for all the support The American Legion has been giving us."

BRIEFLY NOTED

An American Legion memorial tribute to the late Walt Disney was made by Nat'l Cmdr William C. Doyle during an appearance before the **Los Angeles** American Legion Luncheon Club. The Commander presented a plaque to Don B. Tatum, president of Walt Disney Productions, Inc.

Robert F. Froehlke, new Ass't Secretary of Defense for Administration, was a citizen of the first Badger Boys State in 1939 in Delafield, Wis.



"Windows to the world" for Navy vets

From the posts of **Queens County, N.Y.**, came 17 bedside TV sets to St. Albans Naval Hospital. Capt. George Taylor (center in photo), acting for the CO, accepts the gifts from William McLaughlin (left) and Peter Denunzio, Past County Cmdrs.

The **Dep't of Illinois** operates a mobile public relations unit—van and trailer—which carries brochures and membership supplies, movie projection equipment, slides, PA system, chart talks, etc. Cost: less than four cents a mile.



This is what it will look like—the new Legion and Auxiliary Hq of the Dep't of Pennsylvania at Wormleysburg.

Each year, **Pennsylvania's 32nd District** honors, at a dinner, the District Oratorical and Essay Contest winners and first and second runners-up. The winner of the Oratorical Contest becomes eligible to accept Sen. Robert D. Fleming's Senatorial Scholarship to the Univ. of Pittsburgh. Runners-up receive War Bonds. Essay Contest winners get cash and War Bonds. Also, each year Congressman Robert J. Corbett turns over his appointments to West Point Academy and to the Air Force Academy to the 32nd District. Each post in the District has an opportunity to send candidates to the District for judging. All the youths and their parents and teacher coaches are invited to the dinner.

The **Dep't of Kansas** gave honorary plaques to four major league baseball players who formerly played Legion ball

in Kansas. The occasion was a Baseball Testimonial Dinner arranged by the city of Topeka in honor of Kansas major league baseball players. Those cited by the Legion were Ken Berry (Topeka) and Joe Horlen (Wichita), both of the White Sox; Paul Lindblad (Chanute), Athletics; and Don Lock (Kingman), Phillies.

POSTS IN ACTION

DEPT OF STATE PHOTO: R. McNEILL



Post 68, D.C., honors Dean Rusk.

Post 68, the State Dep't post, **Washington, D.C.**, presented Dean Rusk, then Secretary of State, with the Legion's Citation for Meritorious Service. In the photo, Francis J. Donnelly, Post 68 Cmdr, makes the presentation as the Secretary holds the framed citation. Others in the photo are, l. to rt.: John Jackson, PPCmdr; Jacobus Vermeulen; Paul Toussaint; James Corcoran, PPCmdr; and Patrick Donnelly. Mr. Rusk, a member of Post 68, was commended for his outstanding service and contributions to the Legion during the past eight years. He cited the Legion's posture on national security and defense as "responsible" and "helpful," and said he was "most appreciative" of the opportunities for talking with the representatives of Boys' Nation and Girls' Nation during their annual visits to the capital.

Proceeds from the 34th annual **Troy, N.Y.**, Kennel Club dog show, sponsored by **Troy Post 628**, provided an outing for all residents and staff of Vanderheyden Hall, an orphanage. Post Cmdr Andrew J. Brown, Jr., and other officials accompanied three busloads of children to Caroga Lake for a full day of fun.



Ground-breaking ceremonies for Post 21, Chicago's new \$125,000 home reveal usual quota of workers and supervisors.

It was a little unusual, the children thought, when Santa arrived in **Fort Myers Beach, Fla.**, by Coast Guard boat,

SCHELL, FT. MYERS BEACH MAD SHOPPER



Post 274, Fla.: Santa comes ashore.

but it was a fine Christmas party. It was sponsored by Legion **Post and Unit 274**, VFW Post 1097, and the Coast Guard. About 60 children got Christmas stockings, which were also given to the Pediatrics Dep't of Lee Memorial Hospital.

Paul Chinn, Past Dep't Cmdr, **Kentucky** (left in photo), and General Chmn of



PAUL E. YORK, KY.

Post 201, Ky.: Retarded children's fund the 16th Annual Child Welfare Carnival at **Louisville Post 201**, presented a check for \$21,652 to Grant Bruton, president (right), Council for Retarded Children of Jefferson County. This brings the 16-year total to \$180,252.

Post 70, Cave Junction, Ore., held an Arts & Crafts Festival in Grants Pass with 18 booths of displays by local organizations and individuals. The event was designed to stimulate interest in art and related crafts and to raise funds for children's summer activities. On the committee were Chmn W. Hoelscher, F. Briggs, A. Kalbfus, P. Peters, and E. Hightower.

Post 70, Wellsville, Ohio, gave \$500 to the Robert Bycroft School for Retarded Children in Elkton. Post Cmdr Kenneth Hoover's committee consisted of Chairman Samuel Maylone, Samuel Giordano, and James Ralston.

Post 1, Memphis, Tenn., gave a check for \$5,000 to the VA Hospital in Memphis for the purchase of TV sets and

the construction of an outdoor patio for the disabled. In the photo, Post Cmdr Joe Darden (right) gives a Certificate for Outstanding Service to Dr. C. C. Woods, director of the hospital, who was retiring after many years of service. Look-



LES COOPER, MEMPHIS

Memphis Post 1: \$5,000 for VA disabled ing on are Mrs. Woods and Earl Cundiff, chmn of the post's Hospital Committee.

Post 22, Duchesne, Utah, gathers deer hides and pelts each year to raise money for a Christmas fund so that Santa can visit all the children in the area 10 days before Christmas. Leftover goods are distributed to widows and widowers of the community. Post 22 had a colorful float in the Duchesne County Fair parade, proclaiming the Legion's 50th Anniversary. The float was also used by **Post 11, Vernal**, in that city's Veterans Day parade.

Two Legionnaires of **Chicago, Ill., Post 959**, which has given about 50 TV sets to VA Hospitals, present one for the use of a disabled vet (Legionnaire Eldon Dugan of **Post 95, Vandalia**). The two are PC Michael Rusnak and SO Max Wille, at Research VA Hospital.



Post 959, Chicago: another TV set gift

Seven years ago, **Post 130, Midland**



Post 130, N.J.: Nurses scholarships

Park, N.J., started a memorial Nurses Scholarship Fund in honor of one of its members, Martha Hazen, a WW2 Navy nurse who gave her life helping others in a hotel fire in Europe. In 1968 the post accepted as a co-sponsor Council 5498, Knights of Columbus. In the photo, Post Cmdr Thomas Cosgrove (left) awards the 10th, 11th, and 12th scholarships to Ellen Terpstra, Susan Santhouse, and Kathryn Sfamurri. Watching are Grand Knight William Schneller of the K. of C. and PPC and Scholarship Chmn James McKinley.



Post 419, Chicago, Ill., has awarded over \$1,500 in scholarships. Post Cmdr Andrew Gruca and Chmn Edwin Pajor do the honors for five recent young winners.



Several recently returned Viet arena servicemen were entertained by New York Athletic Club Post 754 during its 100 Anniversary All-Sports Dinner. At left, standing, are NY County Cmdr George Mast and Post Cmdr Ray Stout, Jr. At right, PPCmdr Emanuel Trakis.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Hon. Theodore F. Stevens, of Anchorage, Alaska, named United States senator to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Senator E. L. Bartlett. His term will run until 1970. Senator Stevens, an Anchorage lawyer and member of the Advisory Board to the Legion's Nat'l Law & Order Committee, is a former law partner of Herald Stringer, director of the Nat'l Legislative Div.

William E. Galbraith, of Beemer, Neb., Immediate Past Nat'l Cmdr, named Deputy Administrator of the Dep't of Agriculture. He will supervise the State and County agricultural stabilization and conservation services, working directly with the respective State and County chairmen.

Joseph A. Boyd, Jr., of Post 32, Hialeah, Fla., elected a Florida State Supreme

Court Justice. He is a Past Dep't Cmdr (1953-54).

■
Lewis E. McCray, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Nat'l Vice Cmdr, who served recently on the Freedoms Foundation Awards Jury, selecting awardees who will be cited for "outstanding contributions toward a better understanding and appreciation of the American way of life."

■
Charles L. Bacon, of Kansas City, Mo., Past Nat'l Cmdr (1961-62), named president of the Liberty Memorial Assoc. of Kansas City. The Association, chartered by the city, and dedicated during the 1921 Legion Nat'l Convention in Kansas City, has 100 trustees and a 15-member board of governors. Bacon is the first WW2 veteran to be president.

■
John G. McNamara, a member of Post 92, Cheshire, Conn., and that community's police chief, elected president of the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Assoc. for 1969. He is a member of the Nat'l Law & Order Committee.

■
Benjamin B. Truskoski, of Bristol, Conn., serving as Acting Dep't Adjutant until a new Dep't Adjutant is chosen. Truskoski, who is vice chairman of the Publications Commission, is filling the void created by the departure of Charles L. Parker because of ill health.

John Ryer, NE Committeeman, Dies



John A. Ryer, of East Providence, R.I., a member of the Nat'l Executive Committee since 1963, died suddenly January 7. Active for a good many years in The American Legion, John had been alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1951-52 and served as Dep't Commander (1951-52) and Dep't Adjutant (1952-53).

Death Takes Frank E. Lowe

Frank E. Lowe, of Harrison, Me., Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr (1949-50) died December 27, 1968. He was 83. He was Maine Dep't Commander in 1938-39 and served with the Nat'l Security Commission. A retired major general and veteran of WW1, WW2, and Korea, in which conflict he was President Truman's personal representative, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Gen. Douglas MacArthur for outstanding service in Korea. During WW2 he was a member of the then Senator Truman's Committee Investigating the Nat'l Defense Program. Between World Wars he became associated with the Kennebec Wharf & Coal Co. and was company president when he retired in 1938. Subsequently he became executive secretary of the Associated Industries of Maine, a post he held from 1938 until he was recalled to active duty in June 1940 as a field colonel in the Army reserves. Other recent deaths have been:

Richard C. O'Connell, of Freeland, Md., who attended the Paris Caucus in 1919.

■
Howard Rigby, of East Philadelphia, Pa., **Thomas E. Press, Jr.**, of St. Petersburg, Fla. (a member of the Dep't of New York Legion), and **Paul J. Robinette**, of Hartville, Mo., alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1932-34. All three attended the St. Louis Caucus.

■
Earl Dewey Eisenhower, 70, of Scottsdale, Ariz., a Legionnaire and one of six brothers of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Death came from a heart attack. He had been an electrical engineer and a public relations executive. He served one term as an Illinois state legislator.

■
Ralph P. Harmon, of Belle Fourche, S. Dak., Past Dep't Cmdr (1939-40) and alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1939-40).

NEW POSTS

The American Legion has recently chartered the following new posts:

Daleville Post 169, Daleville, Ala.; Capitol City Post 317, Montgomery, Ala.; Troy American Legion Post 325, Troy, Ala.; Los Serranos Post 624, Chino, Calif.; Charles A. Gordon Post 232, Hawthorne, Fla.; Emory Cooper Post 280, Nichols, Fla.; Willie Carey Post 587, Atlanta, Ga.; Addison Post 1969, Addison, Ill.; Murray J. Reed, Sr. Post 317, Iota, La.; John F. Kennedy Memorial Post 287, Prince George's County, Md.; Smith-Horton Post 619, Joplin, Mo.; Universal City Post 593,

Universal City, Tex.; and Guernsey Post 95, Guernsey, Wyo.

Also, Chester-Vaughn Post 620, Fulton, Mo.; Vigilante Post 117, Virginia City, Mont.; Little Axe Post 274, Little Axe, Okla.; and Christopher Young Post 857, Port Lavaca, Tex.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The award of a life membership to a Legionnaire by his Post is a testimonial by those who know him best that he has served The American Legion well.

Below are listed some of the previously unpublished life membership Post awards that have been reported to the editors. They are arranged by States or Departments.

Tom Mason and **Carl F. Mayer** and **Glenn A. McCollister** and **Theodore G. McKesson** and **Roy A. McKinnie** (all 1967), Post 1, Phoenix, Ariz.

Ted O. Roberts and **Alex Sorenson** and **Anthony J. Tarpey** and **Robert N. Vrana** (all 1968), Post 26, Mesa, Ariz.

William Preszler and **A. J. Randolph** and **Mary Riggles** and **Lloyd Vizelech** and **Bert Wilson** (all 1968), Post 22, Lodi, Calif.

Joseph M. Dimock and **Harry A. Harrison, Sr.** (both 1968), Post 105, Redwood City, Calif. **Jack Gerber** and **William F. Reynolds, Sr.** (both 1967) and **Harry Solomon** (1968), Post 254, Los Angeles, Calif.

Lawrence G. Swarttger (1968), Post 271, Los Angeles, Calif.

Orville H. Tallmadge (1968), Post 410, Daly City, Calif.

George L. Busch and **Waite H. Gerry** (both 1968), Post 482, Ojai, Calif.

Heath Lrown and **George R. Glaser** and **Clarence W. Jones** and **John A. Utz** (all 1965), Post 30, Wray, Colo.

Harry E. Krummel and **Lyman M. Johnson** (both 1968), Post 1, Havana, Cuba (in exile). **Henry Nagel** (1968), Post 270, Port Orange, Fla.

Elsa M. Warner (1968), Post 32, Springfield, Ill.

John Jacobs and **Louis Kareiva** and **Stanley Kazin** and **Ben Mason** and **Stanley Mitchell** (all 1968), Post 271, Chicago, Ill.

Andrew Konecki and **Michael Lawrence** and **James Marelska** and **Louis Wundrach** (all 1968), Post 419, Chicago, Ill.

Merrill Stewart and **Herbert E. Stoltz** and **Roy E. Talley** and **Ray P. Tilton** and **Eldon R. Voll** (all 1967), Post 423, Mount Carmel, Ill.

Martin Dalrymple and **Ralph Donovan** and **Everett Fletcher** and **Herbert Greenlee** and **Lewis Groves** (all 1968), Post 477, Chrisman, Ill.

William W. Adams and **Harry M. Clark** and **Charles N. May** (all 1968), Post 555, Chicago, Ill.

Montford M. Aikman and **Marion F. Bennett** and **Hugh R. Fortner** (all 1968), Post 184, Newport, Ind.

Lafe Oxley, Sr. and **Rufus C. Welter** (both 1968), Post 229, Corwith, Iowa.

Royce Jones (1966) and **Sever Ivers** (1967) and **Arlagh Dunlap** (1968), Post 545, Lime Springs, Iowa.

Ivan E. Forsythe (1968), Post 5, Waterville, Maine.

Pierre Jambard and **Eugene Lebrun** and **Arthur Levesque** and **Charles Monjeon** and **Raymond St. Pierre** (all 1967), Post 49, Van Buren, Maine.

John H. Brown and **Charles H. Wolf** (both 1967), Post 191, Mt. Airy, Md.

Raymond P. Chandler and **Rev. Ernest Pugh** and **William G. White** (all 1968), Post 223, Duxbury, Mass.

R. Levenger (1965) and **Geo. Failey** and **Jos. Filip** and **Otto Helweg** and **Vic Rhinehart** (all 1966), Post 93, Hartford, Mich.

Robert Grosse (1968), Post 204, Three Oaks, Mich.

Harold Augustus (1961) and **Martin P. O'Hara** (1964), Post 282, Ypsilanti, Mich.

O. T. Johnson and **Mason Nass** (both 1968), Post 16, Bagley, Minn.

Frank Bartelt and **Louis Bernier, Sr.** and **Richard J. Bernier** and **John Brennan** and **Frank Cunniff** (all 1965), Post 65, Rosemount, Minn.

Sylvester Ergen (1968), Post 323, Clearwater, Minn.

Hans P. Jensen and **Edwin E. Moore** and **Oscar Pederson** and **Edward W. Pietz** (all 1968), Post 391, Storden, Minn.

Warren Monk and **August Scheel** and **Simon Sobania** and **John Theil** (all 1965), Post 473, Rice, Minn.

Clyde L. Brooks, Sr. and **Percy A. Wasson** (both 1968), Post 1, Jackson, Miss.

(Continued on next page)

Frank T. Markovich (1967), Post 78, Slater, Mo.

Thomas S. Romans, Sr. and James C. Staggs and R. L. Timmerman and Robert E. Van Zandt (all 1968), Post 1, Leonia, N.J.

Arthur Eisenman and Andrew Lacinak (both 1968), Post 63, Bound Brook, N.J.

Austin A. Kiefer and Walter Lynch (both 1968), Post 170, Rochelle Park, N.J.

Frank Banno and William Berardi and Frank Binno and Nicholas Blasi and Oreste Bozza (all 1967), Post 191, Newark, N.J.

Arthur Berge and John Conlon (both 1968), Post 388, Jersey City, N.J.

Albert Roth and Joseph P. Ryan and Leon Sobel and Elias E. Sugarman (all 1968), Post 391, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Richard S. Wheeler (1960) and John F. Ahrens (1963) and Joseph McClafferty (1966) and William L. Brown (1968), Post 440, Hornell, N.Y.

Edward N. Pearson and George E. Sanders and Walter J. Short and Harold I. Stephenson (all 1968), Post 468, Rochester, N.Y.

Nat Giles and Edward Papke and Frank J. Schilling (all 1968), Post 483, Rosedale, N.Y.

James J. Falls (1968), Post 487, New York, N.Y.

George A. Altes and Timothy Burns and Raymond J. Emerling, Sr. and Dr. Alvah L. Lord (all 1964), Post 527, Hamburg, N.Y.

Rene O. Sergeant (1968), Post 596, Cincinnati, N.Y.

George Clift and Harold Ingraham and William E. Kirk (all 1968), Post 788, Hilton, N.Y.

Al Kane and Lawrence Manns and Frank Marco and George W. Schaefer (all 1968), Post 937, Berlin, N.Y.

Edward Klimek and Paul Maleski (both 1968), Post 1520, Albany, N.Y.

Oscar M. Overmon and Edward B. Shimer (both 1965) and Jack C. Brown (1967), Post 147, Miami, Okla.

Jackson M. Roberts (1968), Post 88, Bonneville, Ore.

L. C. Van Ausdell and George R. Martin (both 1968), Post 108, Corbett, Ore.

Alex T. Fraser and Dr. Joseph H. Helfrich and Joseph J. Jonas and Miloway Kernich and Floyd H. Mayes (all 1968), Post 481, Midland, Pa.

Charles Carey (1968), Post 940, West Brownsville, Pa.

William R. Douglas (1968), Post 5, Nashville, Tenn.

Erie J. Morrill and Charles E. Mould and Don S. Moulton and Ralph E. Noble and Warren N. Randall (all 1969), Post 33, Morrisville, Vt.

Jacob R. Bossong (1968), Post 165, Yorktown, Va.

Richard V. Van Schoick (1968), Post 94, Lacey, Wash.

Life Memberships are accepted for publication only on an official form, which we provide. Reports received only from Commander, Adjutant or Finance Officer of Post which awarded the life membership.

They may get form by sending stamped, self-addressed return envelope to:

"L.M. Form, American Legion Magazine, 720 5th Ave., New York, N.Y." 10019.

On a corner of the return envelope write the number of names you wish to report. No written letter necessary to get forms.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion will be held in month indicated. For particulars, write person whose address is given.

Notices accepted on official form only. For form send stamped, addressed return envelope to O. R. Form, American Legion Magazine, 720 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. Notices should be received at least five months before scheduled reunion. No written letter necessary to get form.

Earliest submission favored when volume of requests is too great to print all.

ARMY

4th Div QM Co (WW2)—(Aug.) Joe Custer, 202 Plymouth Dr., Roanoke, Va. 24019

8th Arm'd Div—(July) Henry Rothenberger, 134 N. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. 60602

9th Div (WW2)—(July) Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

10th Eng (Forestry, WW1)—(April) James Morton, P.O. Box 548, Placerville, Calif. 95667

16th Arm'd Div—(Aug.) Lester Bennett, 5820 Recamper Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43613

20th Eng, 4th Bn, Co E (11th Co, WW1)—(June) George Schryver, 18 Moorland St., Williamstown, Mass. 01267

20th Inf, Co I (WW2)—(Aug.) Glen Wolff, RR 3, Macon, Mo. 63552

34th Inf Reg't & 893rd TD Bn (Prior to June 1940)—(Sept.) Michael Swirble, 590 N. Wyoming St., Hazleton, Pa.

34th Div—(Sept.) Marshall Runnells, 8108 Clinton Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55420

51st Pioneer Inf (WW1)—(Sept.) Otto Rauch, 186 Adams St., Delmar, N.Y. 12054

65th Art'y, Bat A (WW1)—(May) C. C. Hampton, 427 E. Bonita Ave., Amarillo, Tex. 79108

71st Reg't CAC (WW1)—(June) Theodore Cote, 4 Norton Ct., New Bedford, Mass. 02740

85th Ord Co, HM Tank—(July) Ray Kelly, 909 Callahan Ct., Lakeland, Fla. 33801

93rd Arm'd Field Art'y Bn—(June) D. L. Beetzle, First National Bank, Springfield, Ill. 62701

101st Airborne Div—(July) Walter Miller, Jr., P.O. Box 454, Greenville, Tex. 75401

102nd Field Art'y, Bat F (WW1)—(May) Raymond Corkery, 198 Shaw St., Lowell, Mass.

103rd Medical Bn & Reg't—(Sept.) Robert Goldsmith, 37 Farmbrook Dr., Levittown, Pa. 19055

105th AAA AW Bn—(June) Ralph Linnemann, 2741 Pembroke Terr., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73116

109th Eng, Co F—(Sept.) I. E. Tilgner, Lewellen, Neb. 69147

110th Inf, Co K (WW1)—(Sept.) Glancy Smith, 644 Huffman St., Waynesburg, Pa. 15370

111th Inf, Co C (WW2)—(June) Edward Ellis, 321 Clearfield Ave., Norristown, Pa. 19401

112th Cav Reg't (Midwest Reunion)—(Aug.) Lionel Carter, 1621 Cleveland St., Evanston, Ill. 60202

121st Inf, Co B—(July) Roy Green, Rt. 2 Tallahassee Rd., Athens, Ga. 30601

131st Inf, Co L (WW1)—(June) Albert Lemmon, 503 Beaumont Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21212

134th Inf, Co D—(June) Paul Nelson, 1021 W. 4th St., North Platte, Neb. 69101

152nd Inf, 1st Bn (WW2)—(July) James Corley, 215 Lafayette St., New Albany, Ind. 47150

185th Ord Co—(Aug.) Jake Gibson, 11 Southridge Rd., Darby, Pa. 19023

203rd AAA, Bat D—(July) Alva Henderson, 2817 E. 13th St., Columbus, Ind. 47201

209th Field Art'y Bn & 161st FA Reg't, 2nd Bn—(June) Jack Embrey, 903 E. 9th St., Winfield, Kans. 67156

242nd Field Art'y Bn (WW2)—(Aug.) Edward Pipal, R.F.D. 3, Burwell, Neb. 68823

277th Field Art'y Bn (WW2)—(Aug.) William Sewell, Rt 4 Box 177, Somerset, Ky. 42501

285th Field Art'y Observ Bn—(July) James Smith, 118 Hollywood Dr., Clairton, Pa. 15025

324th Field Art'y—(Sept.) Fred Karch, 1143 Oakwood Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43206

327th Field Art'y (WW1)—(Sept.) Chas. Campbell, 407 S. Cherokee St., Taylorville, Ill. 62568

332nd Ambulance Co (WW1)—(June) Roy Huberty, 3414 Virginia Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44109

337th Reg't (WW2)—(July) Seixas Milner, 372 Broadland Rd. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30305

338th Eng Reg't—(July) Herb Schardein, 129 S. 6th St., Louisville, Ky. 40202

344th QM Depot Co—(Aug.) Fred Raboff, 1626 Crest Hill Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

348th QM Depot Supply Co—(June) G. M. Wagoner, Poplar Dr., Amity Gardens, Douglassville, Pa. 19518

447th AAA Bn—(Sept.) Lennis Dauzat, 442 14th St., Alexandria, La. 71301

American Legion Life Insurance Month Ending Dec. 31, 1968

Benefits paid Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1968	\$1,387,513
Benefits paid since April 1958	6,670,425
Basic Units in force (number)	171,497
New Applications approved since Jan. 1, 1968	10,832
New Applications rejected	1,910

American Legion Life Insurance is an official program of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee, 1958. It is decreasing term insurance, issued on application to paid-up members of The American Legion subject to approval based on health and employment statement. Death benefits range from \$11,500 (full unit up through age 29) in decreasing steps with age to termination of insurance at end of year in which 75th birthday occurs. Quoted benefit includes 15% "bonus" in excess of contract amount. For calendar year 1969 the 15% "across the board" increase in benefits will continue to all participants in the group insurance plan. Available in half and full units at a flat rate of \$12 or \$24 a year on a calendar year basis, pro-rated during the first year at \$1 or \$2 a month for insurance approved after January 1. Underwritten by two commercial life insurance companies. American Legion Insurance Trust Fund is managed by trustee operating under the laws of Missouri. No other insurance may use the full words "American Legion." Administered by The American Legion Insurance Department, P.O. Box 5609, Chicago, Illinois 60680, to which write for more details.

479th Amphib Truck Co—(July) Harold McCaulley, Hollandale, Wis. 53544

508th Eng (WW2)—(Aug.) M. W. Sipe, 2299 Mt. Zion Rd., Ark. Pa. 17402

524th MP Bn—(Aug.) Frank Passic, 900 Eaton Pl., Albion, Mich.

550th Airborne Inf—(Aug.) Armond Heroux, 916 Allen Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

556th AAA AW Bn—(July) Tony Fiorilli, 103 19th St., Wheeling, W. Va. 26003

556th Hvy Pon Eng—(Sept.) Clifford Day, 16762 Inkster Rd., Detroit, Mich. 48240

557th AAA Bn—(May) Louis Edell, 2904 Oakcrest Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234

557th HM Co, Tank—(July) Billy Felts, 4802 Oates Rd., Houston, Tex. 77029

568th AAA AW Bn—(June) Harvey Clemson, 2436 Adrian St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17104

611th OBAM Bn—(Aug.) Laurence Jenkins, 27 Country Gables Circle, Rochester, N.Y. 14606

690th Field Art'y, Bat B (WW2)—(July) B. C. Hight, 204 N. 3rd St., Sanford, N.C. 27330

724th Rwy Oper Bn (WW2)—(June & Aug.) Edward Zimel, 4311 Howland St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19124

727th MP Bn, Co B—(Aug.) D. Day, Jr., 264 Flemingsburg Rd., Morehead, Ky. 40351

752nd Rwy Oper Bn, Co C—(May) R. C. Trimble, 68 S. 34th St., Newark, Ohio 43055

951st Eng Topo Co (Avn)—(Apr.) John Sullivan, 463 Poplar St., Roslindale, Mass. 02131

1263rd Combat Eng Bn (WW2)—(Aug.) Harry Goldsmith, Box 569, Chesterfield, S.C. 29709

Americal Div—(July) Daniel Merlin, P.O. Box 1381, Boston, Mass. 02104

Evac Hosp 8 (WW1)—(Sept.) William Van Arsdale, 303 North Ave., Greer, S.C. 29651

Evac Hosp 33—(June) Harold Grazier, 1335 8th Ave. S., Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

NAVY

3rd Marine Div—(July) T. O. Kelly, 7222 Valley Crest Blvd., Annandale, Va. 22003

55th Seabees—(June) Elwood Dotson, 577 S. Sadler St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90022

60th Seabees—(Aug.) L. J. Cortright, Rt. 1 Box L96, Dunlap, Ill. 61525

88th Seabees—(Aug.) R. J. Free, 1703 12th Ave., Albany, Ga. 31705

96th Seabees—(Aug.) Douglas Clubb, 4746 S. Broadway, Englewood, Colo. 80110

107th Seabees—(Sept.) Norman Joseph, 2020 14th Ave., Broadview, Ill. 60153

501st Seabees MU—(June) James Downing, 6707 70th Pl. West, Parkville, Mo. 64151

Marine AB GP 2 (NAS, San Diego, 1942-45)—(July) Anthony Villano, Rt. 1 Box 652, Forest Lake, Minn. 55025

SLCU 30—(July) Chas. Bailey, P.O. Box 309, Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601

USS Adm W. S. Benson (AP 120, WW2)—(Aug.) Norman Erickson, 1298 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

USS Ancon—(May) Paul Schiever, 3825 Seckinger Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43613

USS Elmo (APA 42)—(Aug.) Donald Messick, 201 Gay St., Denton, Md. 21629

USS Enterprise (CV 6)—(July) William Hay, Chana, Ill. 61015

USS Leviathan (WW1)—(Apr.) R. Lincoln Hedlander, 45 E. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, Conn. 06830

USS Northampton (CA 26, 1930-42)—(Aug.) S. T. Kinard, 1537 Chowkeebin Nene, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301

USS North Carolina (BB 55)—(June) Paul Wieser, 532 Princeton Rd., Linden, N.J. 07036

AIR

22nd Aero Sqdn (WW1)—(Sept.) Arthur McCallum, 2358 S. County Trail, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818

30th Air Serv Sqdn—(May) Ray Schwietzer, 116 Garfield St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14207

79th Ftr Gp, 16th Serv Sq—(Aug.) Bernard Pfeifer, 104 E. Siebenthaler, Dayton, Ohio 45405

138th Aero Sqdn (WW1)—(Sept.) Joseph Lafond, 321 Charles St., Woodburn, Ore. 97071

344th Serv Sqdn—(June) Keith Bee, 650 Gregg Ave., Bridgeville, Pa. 15017

1128th MP Co—(July) Leo Frank, P.O. Box 285, Mt. Joy, Pa. 17552

Roswell AAF (N.M., 1942-45)—(June) Vinton Stearns, 2107 W. Juniper, Roswell, N. Mex.

MISCELLANEOUS

2nd Div, 96th Co (WW1)—(July) Willard Morrey, P.O. Box 321, North Chicago, Ill. 60064

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor—(Apr.) Albert Senna, 850 Hamilton St., Somerset, N.J. 08873

Iceland Vets—(May) Dave Zinkoff, 2101 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Legion of Valor (CMH, DSC, NC, AFC)—(Aug.) Sidney Hantman, Suite 823, 1028 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036

South Dakota Vets (All Services, WW1)—(Sept.) Paul Grosz, 919 Main St., Rm. 3, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701

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and their children and relatives:

Protect your income and savings against big hospital bills

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\$10,000 Medicare Supplement Plan

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Now...for only \$2.90 a month per person... you can protect your income and your life savings against such perils with the new \$10,000 American Life Medicare Supplement Plan.

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SONS, DAUGHTERS, RELATIVES: You can protect your loved ones 65 or older against

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NO MEDICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRED
NO SALESMAN WILL CALL**

Send no money until after you receive your policy

The present enrollment offer is open for a limited time only. Regardless of whether you participate in the U.S. Government Medicare program (if you are under Social Security or Railroad Retirement you are automatically covered by the U.S. Medicare Plan A insurance), you are eligible to enroll under the American Life Medicare Supplement Plan. But you must enroll now to collect the benefits. As long as you are 65 years or older, there's no age limit. Both husband and wife

can enroll (a spouse can join when reaching 65) and enjoy equal benefits for the same low premium per person.

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4. Occupation, kind of work?
- 4a Name and address of employer
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6. Beneficiary and relationship to you?
7. To your knowledge have you had heart, lung, diabetes, cancer, or chronic disease? Are you deformed, lost a hand, foot, eye, or ever rejected for insurance?
8. State condition of your health.
9. Amount desired, and sign your name.

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THE PARIS CAUCUS

(Continued from page 11)

Foreman, a wealthy lawyer (born during the Civil War and a Spanish war veteran), was the "father" of the Illinois Legion. He personally saw to it that no Illinois delegate lacked funds to attend the first national convention in Minneapolis the following November. Without personal contributions to the Legion in 1919 by such men of means as Roosevelt, Foreman, Franklin D'Olier, Mills and others, the Legion might have died, or become an ex-officer's organization. The enlisted men were turned out of the Army with little money in their pockets and often jobless. They hardly had the means to see the Legion through its expensive first year.

The Committee on Constitution in Paris wrote a preamble in one day's work which, though it differed from the final preamble, contained four of the fundamental statements that still endure (see p. 20).

NO CLEAR HISTORY exists that explains in detail how the Legion became semimilitary in its trappings and titles. The view of Legionnaires from the start was that the Legion is a civilian organization. Military sounding titles and uniforms were not conceived in Paris. The Committee on Constitution proposed that the officers be a president, vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer and a board of directors. The substitution of commanders, vice-commanders, adjutants, finance officers and judge advocates came later. The next caucus, in St. Louis in May, drafted a much more detailed proposed constitution, but strangely made no suggestion for national officers at all.

Sometime between May and November, the idea of military sounding titles came into being. The familiar commanders, vice-commanders, etc., were written into the *official* constitution at the first national convention in November without debate or anything on the written record to explain the switch from "president" to "commander." One permanent effect of that change has been that many outsiders have ever since supposed the Legion to be quasi-military—a sort of *band* to its enemies and a loyal, reserve militia to its friends. The military titles and uniforms obscure the fact that there are only blanks in the ceremonial rifles, and that the Legion's main concern is with selfless and responsible American citizenship and service.

The delegates at Paris completely, and wisely, reversed the majority report of the Committee on Convention, headed by Col. J. H. Graham. The majority report called for selecting representatives to a later convention in the States on the basis of military units. It offered a

complex plan whereby delegates should be chosen from battalions, divisions, corps, armies and supply units, etc. The same Major Gordon who sold the name "American Legion" because it was the last choice of the leadership, resisted the majority Convention report by writing a minority report. He urged that another meeting be held in the States to bring off a convention, and that representation be based on the "place of residence," not military units. This tallied closely with the report of the Committee on Permanent Organization, chaired by the same William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan who headed our "cloak-and-dagger" O.S.S. in WW2. Donovan's committee urged that at Paris an Executive Committee be named to go back home and organize locally, then have another caucus with a broader base. It agreed with Gordon's warning not to try to settle too many matters until a more representative meeting could be held. This sat very well with the more suspicious members of the Paris Caucus. The upshot was that in Paris both the Convention and Permanent Organization reports were scrapped. A special committee was given a few hours of recess to bring in a new report. Its report was adopted. The heart of it was that an Executive Committee be named, made up of men from every state. Its members should get local organization going all over the country to supplement work Roosevelt was already doing in the States. Then, in six weeks, a much larger meeting should be held in the States to iron out the problems of calling an official convention, and to make more considered suggestions for permanent organization.

SIX WEEKS STILL seems pretty ambitious as a target date to have been set in Paris, but the St. Louis caucus was actually held only seven weeks later. By then there were Legion units formed or forming all over the country. (See "St. Louis Caucus," page 12.)

If anything is more remarkable than the speed with which the Legion leaped from a groping idea in Paris to a nationwide body in being, it is the enormous amount of ground covered in three days in Paris by a large, unwieldy and sometimes contentious group. The organizational skill of the Legion's founders, as put into practice, may have no parallel in American history. Eight months after Paris, at the time of the first national convention, the Legion had roots all over the country with nearly 700,000 paid up members.

THE END

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LIFE IN THE OUTDOORS

Wildlife Pets

DON'T MAKE PETS of wild animals, warn biologists. Actually, it's illegal in the case of game species, but there are other practical reasons. Most wildlife will survive in captivity, of course, especially if taken when young. And who isn't tempted by a cute baby cottontail, raccoon, or newborn fawn found in the woods? But all wildlife youngsters inevitably grow into adults. And that's when they're trouble.

Few North American animals are dangerous to man, mainly because they instinctively fear him. They flee when he approaches. But when he tames them, they lose this fear, and he becomes vulnerable to their other basic instincts and unpredictable moods. There's no longer a reason why they shouldn't attack him, as they might another animal, when they feel like doing so. Even a pet bunny might nip your finger if it thinks you're not going to give it all the carrot you're holding. Visitors are bitten by tame squirrels in city parks. Some tourists, feeding National Park bears, are mauled every season. A bite from an annoyed pet raccoon is something to be remembered; a full-grown coon has fangs like a wolf!

A young buck deer in the wild will rub its "velvet" covered antlers against a tree, and will spar with another buck for fun; in captivity these instincts often put the pet's owner in the hospital with serious injuries. If the victim falls, the deer usually stomps him with its sharp hooves, still in the spirit of fun, of course. One case involved a hunter who kept a baby jaguar. Friends handled it like an overgrown kitten. Its growling was just "talk." Meanwhile its claws and fangs grew. One day it was in a mood. Maybe it just had a stomach ache. How could it tell its human friends it didn't want to be handled, at least at the moment? Two swats of its paws and one small bite did it—and sent the woman holding it to the hospital with lifelong scars. Realize, however, that the reaction was normal for the animal; against a brother jaguar in the jungle, neither the event nor the wounds would have been taken seriously by either party. This pet now patrols a cage in a public zoo.

In addition, when wild animal pets are eventually released to their native habitat, either because they have grown too large or have been recognized as potential hazards, having become accustomed to man they become easy prey for hunters. Also some species, having been hand-fed and pampered all their lives, do not readily revert to the wild state. They often either starve or become victims of predators. Rejected wild-animal pets have become such a problem in Maine that at the town of Gray the State has established for them a Game Farm Refuge. There tourists can visit them in safety; they're all in pens!

TO IDENTIFY your rod, reel and tackle box in case they become lost, also to discourage theft, apply a small return-address label to each, and cover them with a light

coat of waterproof varnish, recommends Francis Peters of Beckemeyer, Ill. On a fishing rod, spiral it around the butt section just above the handle, after a fine sanding of the existing varnish.

SUPER CATFISH BAIT is suggested by Walter Peplowski of Robinson, Ill. Cut a plastic sponge into small cubes, put into a glass jar, add chicken entrails, dead fish, limburger cheese, or similar catfish goodies. Let stand for several weeks. Better keep the jar sealed, or wear a clothespin on your nose! However, treated cubes will catch more cats, and won't come off the hook.

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CAMOUFLAGE your trout leaders for next spring's fishing by soaking them in strong tea or coffee, or indelible blue ink, suggests Paul Valent of Lansford, Penna. Works for the monofilament tippet you use for ice fishing, too.

TO COAX a coon out of a tree, writes M. Carey of New Castle, Penna., charm him with a harmonica. Blow a few notes on it, then wait. No matter how well he's hidden, he'll climb out in full view to take a look at you.

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If you have a helpful idea for this feature send it in. If we can use it we'll pay you \$5.00. However, we cannot acknowledge, return, or enter into correspondence concerning contributions. Address: Outdoor Editor, The American Legion Magazine, 720 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019.

THE FANTASTIC STRUGGLES OF THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC

(Continued from page 34)

shaft, was towed by tugs to within range but her shots were ineffectual. Land batteries and gunboats opened fire. Still the silent *Merrimac* bore in, thick black smoke chuffing from her stack. At one time, 100 guns were firing at her, but the rebel seemed oblivious to the hail of shot and shell.

THE *Merrimac* was now in easy range and the *Cumberland's* crew saw her forward gunport flip up and the ugly muzzle of the Brooke 7-inch flash flame. The shell tore into the *Cumberland's* bulwarks. Exploding amidships, it slaughtered nine Marines. Again the Brooke rifle boomed. This time the *Cumberland's* forward pivot gun was knocked out and its entire crew was killed or maimed. Both of Gun Captain John Kirker's arms were sliced off at the shoulder sockets and as he was being carried below he begged shipmates to cut his throat.

Now, slithering through the shot-and-shell-pocked water, her forward deck awash, the *Merrimac* drove her four-foot ram deep into the *Cumberland's* hull "like a knife cutting into a watermelon." Buchanan immediately signaled for all

engines to reverse and the *Merrimac* backed off. As it came away, the 1500-pound ram stayed embedded in the *Cumberland*. Some water entered the hole in the *Merrimac's* own prow. The ram had, however, opened the *Cumberland's* side "wide enough to drive in a horse and cart." With survivors leaping over the sides she sank bow first into nine fathoms of water.

The guns of the other Union ships redoubled their efforts. Broadside upon broadside whanged against the *Merrimac's* sloping citadel, but most of the shots merely ricocheted and made water geysers in the oyster beds a mile away. Some shots did find the target. Two of the *Merrimac's* guns were shattered; her boats were shot away, along with stanchions and the flagstaff. The Confederate flag had to be remounted atop a boarding pike. A shell exploded in her stack and the shattering roar made the Union gun crews cheer. They thought the *Merrimac's* boiler had blown and the rebel was finished. She was taking on water where her ram had been and was even now heading up the James River, apparently in flight. The *Congress's* crews began to secure her guns.

What they could not know was that the *Merrimac*, except for the loss of her stinger, was as deadly as ever. Because of her poor maneuverability and speed, she required time to turn around and she sought the safety of distance to do so. Thirty minutes later, the *Merrimac* came about and headed straight for the stern of the *Congress*, whose crews were hurriedly piped back to their guns. Admiral Buchanan permitted himself a moment to reflect that his brother McKean was paymaster aboard the *Congress* before his gunners zeroed in and blitzed the wooden frigate, which replied as best she could. "Our shot had apparently no effect upon her," reported an officer aboard the *Congress*, "but the result of her broadside on our ship was simply terrible. One of her shells dismounted an 8-inch gun and either killed or wounded everyone of the gun's crew, while the slaughter at the other guns was fearful." Among the fallen was her captain, Joseph B. Smith.

The *Congress* ran up a white flag. When Buchanan climbed to the promenade deck atop the *Merrimac's* citadel to oversee removal of the injured, a fusillade of sniper fire opened from the shore. A minié ball shattered his thigh. The command of the *Merrimac* now fell
(Continued on page 52)

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THE FANTASTIC STRUGGLES OF THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC

(Continued from page 51)

upon Buchanan's young executive officer, Lt. Catesby Jones.

Buchanan gave his final order for the Congress: "Pour hot shot into her and don't leave her until she's afire. They must look after their own wounded, since they won't let us." By twilight, the Congress was ablaze. The Merrimac started after the grounded Minnesota, but she was saved by the ebbing tide. Lieutenant Jones, heeding his pilot's urging, returned the Merrimac to the haven of the Elizabeth River before it, too, grounded. Tomorrow was another day.

Secretary Mallory was ecstatic when news of the victory reached Richmond. He envisioned the Merrimac steaming up the Potomac and lobbing shells into President Lincoln's bedroom before going on to attack New York and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

PRESIDENT Lincoln, meanwhile, called his Cabinet into emergency nighttime session. He was stunned by the disastrous news of the slaughter of 300 men and the loss of two ships by the ironclad Merrimac. Certainly, Gen. George McClellan's long planned Peninsular Campaign against Richmond could not start while the rebel threat remained. War Secretary Stanton was all for sending word to New York and Boston to prepare to defend themselves against the Merrimac. What answer could they possibly provide? The Monitor, they decided, would have to bypass Newport News and sail to Washington to protect the Capital. Appropriate orders were drawn.

At 9 o'clock that night, the Monitor chugged into Hampton Roads. Her arrival stirred little interest. The thousands of people lining the hills to watch the Congress burn barely noticed her. Among them was McKean Buchanan, who, unlike his brother commanding the Merrimac, had escaped from the Congress unwounded.

Lieutenant Worden and his crew aboard the Monitor were hardly prepared for the tragic news that greeted them in the Roads. The voyage south had been hell and the Monitor had come close to sinking in the foul weather. Water had poured in onto her fires and many of her crew had collapsed from the coal gas. The others had pumped and bailed and had gone sleepless for 48 hours. Seasick, they had eaten little.

Reviewing the situation that evening, the naval command in Newport News agreed to put aside the orders deploying the Monitor to Washington. She would, instead, stand by the Minnesota and keep the Merrimac away if she could.

The somber mood on the Union side was further darkened early in the morning when flames finally reached the Congress' powder magazines. The jolting explosion ripped the frigate in half.

Dawn of Sunday, March 9, 1862, promised another clear, cloudless day. Off toward Newport News the hulk of the Congress still smoldered and the calm waters of Hampton Roads were peppered with flotsam and gory reminders of the preceding day's battle.

Shortly after 8 o'clock, the Merrimac, with the hole in her prow plugged and



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

her smokestack patched, once again came lumbering into Hampton Roads. The grotesque floating barn with her stack puffing thick black smoke headed for the still-grounded *Minnesota*. And now the outlandish Union cheesebox on a raft churned out to intercept the rebel, while thousands of Virginians brought picnic lunches and camp stools and gathered along the hilltops to watch the naval battle of the century.

HISTORIANS DIFFER on the exact sequence of events between 9 a.m. and noon that day, and the subsequent recollections of various crewmen of the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* were written long after the battle. It is agreed that the *Merrimac* opened with a 150-pound, 10-inch shell fired at the *Minnesota*. It fell short. For the time, the *Minnesota* was spared further bombardment as the *Monitor* moved in.

In her turret, Samuel Dana Greene, the executive officer, had the sensation of being encased in a big black drum. What light there was came from the iron grating across the top of the turret. It cast a crazy-quilt pattern of shadows over him and his gun crew, which was standing ready by the side-by-side pair of 11-inch Dahlgrens.

Minutes passed before Worden gave the command: "Commence firing!"

The gun crew opened the heavy portstopper and Greene got his first sight of the *Merrimac*. It was only 50 yards dead ahead. An easy shot. Greene yanked the lockstring and the Dahlgren boomed a direct hit which ricocheted off the sloping citadel. The portstopper slammed shut and the other one was tugged open.

The second shot also clanged harmlessly off the rebel.

Peering through the pilothouse slit, Worden cursed the negligible effect and swore at the Navy Department's insistence upon 15-pound charges, rather than the 30-pounders which certainly would have poked holes in the rebel. The overly-cautious Admiral John Dahlgren had thought the *Monitor's* untried guns might explode with the heavier powder charge, a groundless fear it was later found.

The *Merrimac* answered with a 150-pound shell. Its bullet-nose scooped a perfect mold, four-inches deep, in the turret before exploding. Acting Master L.N. Stodder was bracing his knee against the wall of the turret as he operated the steam engine that turned it. He was knocked unconscious by the impact. But the turret had withstood the hit and the rotating mechanism was not damaged.

As the *Monitor* came around to the stern of the *Merrimac*, Worden ordered Greene to aim for the rebel's exposed propeller and rudder. Steam hissed and the turret rotated. The portstopper was opened and Greene got off a shot that slammed to one side of the turret. Two feet in the other direction and the *Merrimac* would have been helpless. Greene

would not get a better chance, and he could hardly be blamed for his inaccurate fire. Cooped up in the rotating turret, he soon became disoriented and could not know his aft from his forward, his port from his starboard. White chalk marks made on the deck below the turret to indicate these directions were obliterated early in the battle by the gunners' feet.

"When a gun was ready for firing," Greene later explained, "the turret would be started on its revolving journey in search of the target, and when found it was taken 'on the fly' because the turret could not accurately be controlled."

In addition to the slow-to-start, slow-to-stop turret, other problems soon arose. The clumsy, hard-to-open portstoppers, and the time consumed in passing along the heavy shot up into the turret, prevented the *Monitor* from getting off shots oftener than one every seven minutes. The *Merrimac*, on the other hand, was getting off two or more to every one of the *Monitor's*.

The problems worsened when the concussion from one of the *Merrimac's* shots smashed the speaking tube. The paymaster and the captain's clerk were then positioned along the passageway and relayed Worden's commands. But the turret (Continued on page 54)

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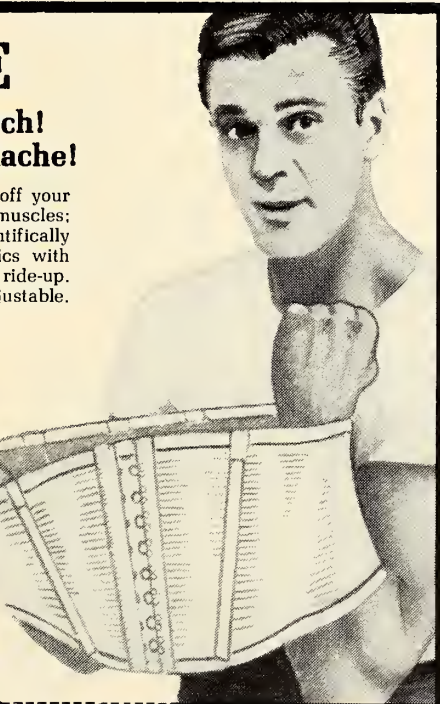
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THE FANTASTIC STRUGGLES OF THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC

(Continued from page 53)

ret had to be turned until its bottom opening lined up with that in the deck before Greene could find out what the captain had in mind.

Nor did the *Monitor* have any monopoly on the tactical and design blunders. The *Merrimac* carried only shell and grape shot, sufficient to tear into wooden hulls but ineffective against the *Monitor's* iron body. The bobbing turret of the *Monitor* offered only a 9-by-20-foot target—and many of the *Merrimac's* shots missed. Too, the *Merrimac's* shell-shattered smokestack was so shot up that "a flock of pigeons could have flown through it." The sieve-like stack was making it difficult to keep a draught in the furnaces. The below-deck areas were

roaring fires, escaping steam, and the loud and labored pulsations of the engines, together with the roar of battle above and the thud and vibration of the huge masses of iron which were hurled against us produced a scene and sound to be compared only with the poet's picture of the lower regions." Concussions from the *Monitor's* blasts brought blood streaming from the noses and ears of the rebel's crew.

As the morning wore on, the *Merrimac* and the *Monitor* steamed in opposite circles. The *Monitor* got off its shots when the circles impinged. The *Merrimac* thundered with broadside after meaningless broadside. Wrote the *Minnesota's* captain, G. J. Van Brunt: "Gun



"When is the last time you swept her up in your arms and called her beautiful?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

filling with smoke and coal gas, making the engineers and gunners groggy.

"On our gun deck was bustle, smoke, grimy figures and stern commands," Chief Engineer Ashton Ramsay of the *Merrimac* later recalled, "while down in the engine and boiler rooms the sixteen furnaces were belching out fire and smoke. . . . The noise of the cracking,

after gun was fired by the *Monitor*, which was returned with whole broadsides, with no more effect (on either) than so many pebblestones thrown by a child."

SUDDENLY, THE *Merrimac* scraped bottom and came to a dead stop. Aground, her rudder and propeller offered a stationary target. Jones called for full steam to get her off. Chief Engineer Ramsay fastened down the safety valves while the engineroom crew stuffed the furnaces with oily rags, wood chips, anything that would burn faster than coal. Smoke gushed from her stack and filled the engineroom. Her propeller churned the water to a muddy mush as the *Monitor* and the *Minnesota* and their consorts whaled away for 20 minutes without crippling that vital area. Finally, the *Merrimac* freed herself.

If the rebel shells could not harm the *Monitor*, then perhaps the *Merrimac*

(Continued on page 56)



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By Mike Senkiw
Agronomist

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WORK LESS • WORRY LESS • SPEND LESS

- Easy To Plant, Easy To Care For
- Perfect For Problem Areas
- Chokes Out Crabgrass
- Reduces Mowing $\frac{2}{3}$
- Won't Winter Kill
- Resists Blight, Insect, Diseases
- Stays Green Through Droughts
- Laughs At Water Bans

No Need To Rip Out Your Present Grass Plug In Amazony

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(Patented)

Our Own Exclusive Design

This full size step-on plugger (patented) is rugged, yet so light, a woman can handle it easily. A growth producing 2-way plugger that cuts away competing growth at same time it digs hole for the plugs. Saves bending, time, work. \$4.95 separately, also available free in special combination with order of grass (600 plugs or more).

Just set Amazony plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. (Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style.) Easy planting instructions with each order.

Order now for earliest delivery at proper planting time in your area and fullest growing season. Orders are shipped collect, same day as taken from the soil, via most economical means.

CUTS YOUR WORK, SAVES YOU MONEY

Your deep-rooted, established Amazony lawn saves you time and money in many ways. It never needs replacement . . . ends re-seeding forever. Fertilizing and watering (water costs money, too) are rarely if ever needed. It ends the need for crabgrass killers permanently. It cuts pushing a noisy mower in the blistering sun by $\frac{2}{3}$.

WEAR RESISTANT

When America's largest University tested 13 leading grasses for wear resistance, such as foot scuffling, the Zoysia (matrella and japonica Meyer Z-52) led all others.

Your Amazony lawn takes such wear as cookouts, lawn parties, lawn furniture, etc. Grows so thick you could play football on it and not get your feet muddy. Even if children play on it, they won't hurt it—or themselves.

CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS

Thick, rich, luxurious Amazony grows into a carpet of grass that chokes out crabgrass and weeds all summer long! It will NOT winter kill. Goes off its green color after killing frost, regains fresh new beauty every Spring—a true perennial!

NO SOD, NO SEED

There's no seed that produces winter-hardy Meyer Z-52 Zoysia. Grass and sod of ordinary grass carries with it the same problems as seed—like weeds, diseases, frequent mowing, burning out, etc. That's why Amazony comes in pre-cut plugs . . . your assurance of lawn success.

PERFECT FOR SLOPES

If slopes are a problem, just plug in Amazony. When established it will end erosion—also plug it into hard-to-cover spots, in play-worn areas, etc.

PLUG AMAZOY INTO OLD LAWN, NEW GROUND OR NURSERY AREA

Just set Amazony plugs into holes in ground like a cork in a bottle. Plant 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Every plug 3 sq. inches.

When planted in existing lawn areas plugs will spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, including weeds. Easy planting instructions with order.

NO NEED TO RIP OUT PRESENT GRASS

Now's the time to order your Zoysia plugs—to get started on a lawn that will choke out crabgrass and weeds all summer long and year after year.

Plug it into an entire lawn or limited "problem areas." Plug it into poor soil, "builder's soil," clay or sandy soils—even salty, beach areas, and I guarantee it to grow!

Every Plug

GUARANTEED TO GROW

In your Area • In your Soil

- WONT WINTER KILL—has survived temperatures 30° below zero!
- WONT HEAT KILL—when other grasses burn out, Amazony remains green and lovely!

Every plug must grow within 45 days or we replace it free. Since we're hardly in business for the fun of it, you know we have to be sure of our product.

Consider the time and money you invest in your lawn and it doesn't pay to struggle with grass that burns out just when you want it most. Order Amazony now and let it spread into thrillingly beautiful turf!

USE THIS COUPON TO ORDER NOW

To: Mr. Mike Senkiw, Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 317
6414 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21215

Dear Mr. Senkiw: Please send me the quantity of guaranteed Amazony as checked below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Size Plugger.....	\$ 495	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 Plugs.....	\$ 695	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 Plugs & Plugger.....	\$ 995
<input type="checkbox"/> 200 Plugs.....	\$1120	<input type="checkbox"/> 200 Plugs & Plugger.....	\$1375	<input type="checkbox"/> 300 Plugs & Plugger.....	\$1775
<input type="checkbox"/> 600 Plugs & Plugger.....	\$2795	<input type="checkbox"/> 1100 Plugs & Plugger.....	\$3995		

I Enclose \$.....Check.....M.O.....

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THE FANTASTIC STRUGGLES OF THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC

(Continued from page 54)

could ram her to the bottom, a tactic which could cost the *Merrimac* too. Signaling for a full head of steam, Jones sent the *Merrimac* at the *Monitor*. But the cumbersome rebel only succeeded in getting close enough to nudge the *Monitor* and put a small dent in her side.

The 20-minute volley against the grounded *Merrimac* had depleted the *Monitor's* ammunition. Greene got off one last shot, which merely zinged off the *Merrimac's* iron. Then he headed back to port to reload. Assuming that the *Monitor* had tasted enough, Jones lost no time. He ordered the *Merrimac's* helm put over and she pulled across the placid water toward the *Minnesota*. Her first shell gouged a gaping hole in the frigate and wiped out four staterooms. Jones bored in for the kill.

The *Minnesota* trained every one of her 47 guns on the rebel and let loose with a broadside blizzard of shot and shell which merely bounced off the *Merrimac*. More than any other incident of this day's battle, these few minutes were to be regarded by many as the last hurrah for the age of wooden warships.

To Jones' surprise, the *Monitor* suddenly reappeared. Again the ironclads closed and again the *Merrimac's* shot glanced harmlessly off the turret while the *Monitor's* did only minor damage to the rebel's plates. Jones tried a new tactic. If the enemy's turret was impenetrable, perhaps he could knock out the

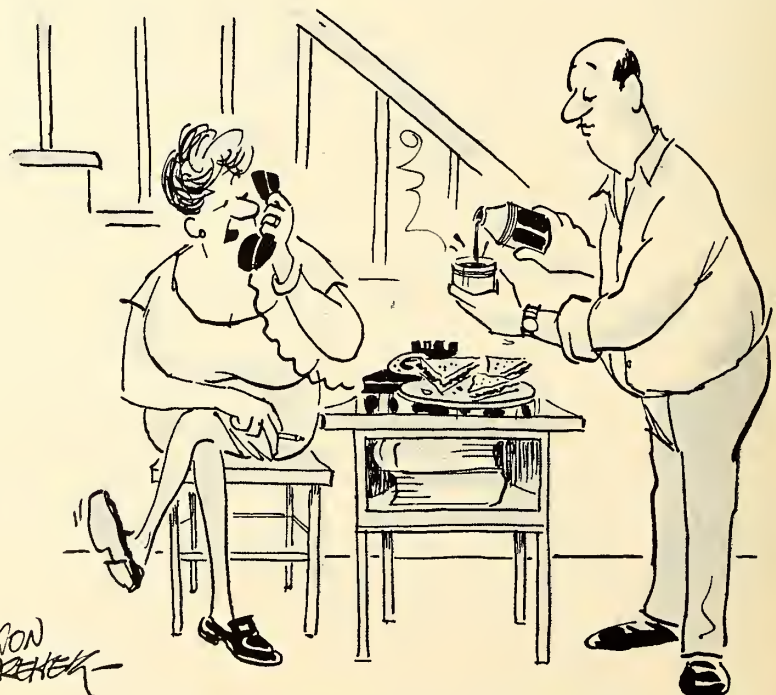
Monitor by concentrating his fire on her pilothouse.

At 11:30 a.m., as the *Monitor* came around the *Merrimac's* stern, the *Merrimac's* Brooke rifle fired.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER Greene's first inkling that something was wrong came when, within the turret, he heard the *Monitor's* engines throbbing strong and felt her surge forward. Then he heard yells coming from below. He was being called to the pilothouse by Captain Worden's men there. Greene was horrified at what he saw when he got there. Blood was gushing "from every pore in Worden's face." The shot had struck the front of the wheelhouse as Worden peered through the slit, which had been widened against Ericsson's protests. Shards of iron and bits of powder had peppered and blinded Worden. He was suffering from a severe concussion, as was the helmsman who, in his daze, had permitted the *Monitor* to bolt upstream. Although Worden ultimately recovered, one entire side of his face was forever powder-blackened.

Seeing the *Monitor* aimlessly churning away from the fight, Jones once more assumed that the Union ironclad was vanquished and he turned the *Merrimac* back toward the *Minnesota*.

Jones was eager to continue to fight, but, as on the previous day, the *Merrimac's* pilot now advised him that the tide was ebbing and there was danger of



Ron Gresham

"Did you know I married a comedian, Grace?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

being grounded again. The *Merrimac*, Jones noted, was also low on ammunition. He ordered the ship returned to Norfolk.

Worden, meanwhile, relinquished command of the *Monitor* to the 22-year-old Greene, who brought her around once more to do battle. Greene was astonished to see that the *Merrimac* was heading for Norfolk. He was tempted to pursue her, but the *Monitor's* orders were to protect the *Minnesota*, and that did not mean chasing the *Merrimac* into Norfolk.

The battle was over, a draw. But in those brief hours, the navies of the world were made obsolete.

Each side claimed victory, and historians today argue the outcome. The murderous *Merrimac* sank two Union warships and damaged another. Their crews were decimated. And McClellan's plan to take Richmond by advancing up the York Peninsula was hampered by the presence of the *Merrimac*. But the *Monitor* had checked her. If her sting was not completely removed, she did no further major harm. The Northern blockade was still as effective as ever, and the North had the time and the potential to build a fleet of ironclads. The South had neither.

The *Merrimac* and the *Monitor* sparred several times during the next weeks, but neither side was willing to risk the loss of its lone ironclad in a rematch by venturing into the other's domain. For a while the *Merrimac* stood guard over the James River and the *Monitor* over Chesapeake Bay, but both ships had little time left.

AFTER NORFOLK was evacuated on May 8, 1862, the *Merrimac*, unable to escape up the James, was burned to prevent her from falling into Union hands. The *Monitor* saw some action later, none of it particularly notable. Then, on New Year's Eve, 1862, while being towed to Charleston, S.C., to support the fleet, she was caught in a gale. Heavy seas swamped her and she went down off Cape Hatteras with 16 of her crew.

The naval warships that were built after the encounter of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* all bore the mark of this famous battle, which tolled the eclipse of wooden ships from the world's great navies.

John Ericsson lived to be 85. In 1926, in recognition of his work on the *Monitor*, and on naval guns, torpedoes and submarines, he became one of the earliest foreign private citizens to be honored on a U.S. postage stamp. Shortly after his death in 1889, his remains were carried to Sweden for burial in his native land. The *U.S.S. Baltimore*, an all steel warship, took him home for his final rest.

THE END

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GUIDE TO GRADUATE SCHOOL AMERICAN AUTO OUTLOOK PASSPORT POINTERS

If one of your sons or daughters is planning to attend a graduate or professional school this fall, get him to apply right now (if he hasn't already done so). Entrance requirements among our 1,500 graduate and professional schools vary a good bit, but they all include one or more of the following:

- 1) A bachelor's degree or prescribed prior academic training.
- 2) Sometimes a degree plus high grades.
- 3) Sometimes one or more tests.

You can find out a school's entrance requirements by 1) writing the school, or 2) consulting a good guide such as "Cowles Guide to Graduate Schools"; Cowles Education Corp.; \$3.95.

Those graduate schools that require tests often specify a GRE (Graduate Record Examination). This is a two-part affair consisting of an aptitude probe plus an exam in the field the student has selected as his specialty. The cost is \$1 for the aptitude test, \$9 for the advanced test or \$15 for both if taken together. In any event, no matter whether the test is a GRE or some other type, the school will tell you when and where to take it.

For your own background on graduate and professional schools, remember these quick facts: Unlike regular college work, **graduate work is specialty work**; attainment of a higher degree usually requires a **minimum of two years** work and may go to five and more; most degrees awarded by graduate schools are in the fields of science, engineering, education, and business and commerce—plus a raft of other specialties including law and medicine.

★ ★ ★

Look for two important developments in the automotive field in the near future:

BIAS-BELTED TIRES: These will become standard equipment on several auto lines, probably beginning with Chevrolet. Essentially, this tire has a belt of fiber glass or other material between the cording and the tread, thereby adding greatly (up to 100%) to tire life, and increasing all-round roadability. The leading producer right now is Goodyear, though all major makers are getting into the swim. Additional cost per car equipped with bias-belts: About \$45.

SUBCOMPACTS: Detroit's answer to the small European and Japanese imports soon will be unveiled by Ford, American Motors and General Motors. All will have much shorter wheelbases and lengths than standard cars, six-cylinder engines in the 100 h.p. class and price tags as close to \$2,000 as the makers can get them and still make a profit.

★ ★ ★

Note that some important changes in passport regulations have gone into effect. Here's what to bear in mind:

NEW PASSPORTS: They now are valid for five years at a fee of \$12. Previously passports had a three-year life, then could be renewed for two more years. In short, the three-and-two system has been abolished in favor of a straight five-year plan.

OLD PASSPORTS: If you have an old—but valid—three-year passport dated prior to August 26, 1968, its life automatically is extended to five years from time of issue. There's no charge for the extension.

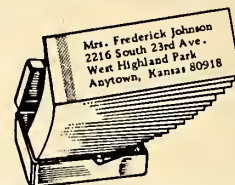
PASSPORT RENEWALS: Let 'em run out, then apply for a new document which, of course, will be a five-year job.

Also, remember these basics about passports:

- When you apply for your first one, you need proof of citizenship (birth certificate or its equivalent, or naturalization papers). If you can't find your birth certificate, you may get some helpful clues from a booklet entitled "How to Obtain Birth Certificates," (Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402; 10¢). On the second ground, your old passport usually is proof of citizenship.

—By Edgar A. Grunwald

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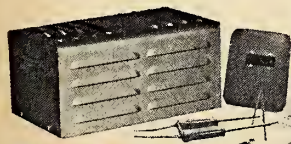


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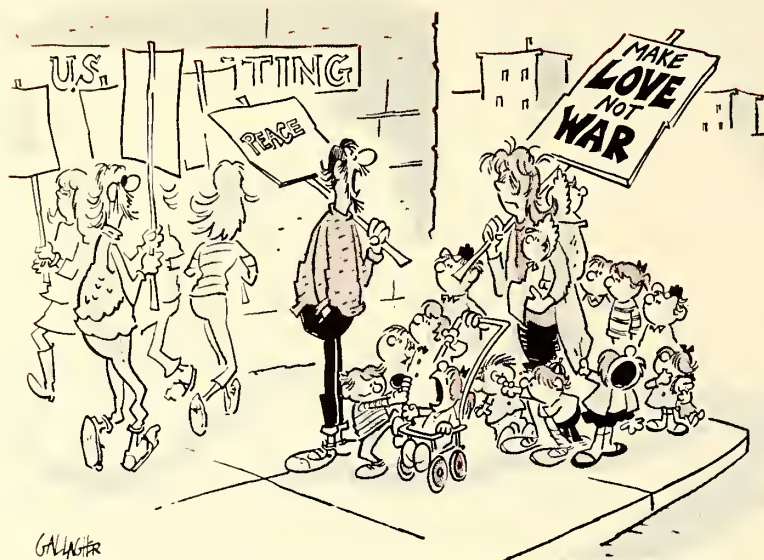
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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

IT DEPENDS ON WHO PAYS THE FREIGHT

Some men were talking one evening of the trend toward political conservatism among many college students, and one man cited a case he knew about personally.

"This youngster," he said, "has been a frequent guest in my home. Almost a second son. And for a long time he was far-left politically and economically. Really far out. But recently he expressed such opposite views that I was startled.

"How come," I asked him, "this change? How come you're no longer a super-liberal?"

"I found out," the youth snapped back, "that they're expecting *me* to pay *your* old age pension!"

DAN BENNETT

A BITING REMARK

The speaker had just concluded his lecture on rabies and hydrophobia to the Red Cross class. The speaker then asked the class collectively what they would do if they had rabies.

One fellow in the front row quickly responded. "I'd ask for a piece of paper and a pencil."

"To make out your will?" presumed the speaker.

"No," replied the man, "to make out a list of people I'd want to bite."

HERM ALBRIGHT

ONLY IN THE U.S.A.

I was showing the sights of New York City to a U. N. delegate from a small Eastern country. In the course of our sightseeing, we visited Fulton St. Fish Market and observed two tubs of live crabs, side by side. One tub read \$2.50 a dozen and the other read \$1.50 a dozen. As we watched, a crab pulled himself up from the \$1.50 a dozen tub and crawled over the rim into the \$2.50 a dozen receptacle.

My visiting U. N. delegate nodded wistfully: "That is the sort of thing that can only happen in the U.S.A."

MELVIN BENDER

UNION TROUBLE

Matrimony was probably the first union to defy management.

RON GREER

IN OR OUT?

Family incomes nowadays
Fill folks with much chagrin,
It's for sure we can't live without one
Or even live within!

CATHERINE ZELMS

CROOKED TALE

Con man: One who loots before you leap.

LANE OLINGHOUSE

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK . . .

They asked him, "Is it true you're hen-pecked?"

Thoughtfully he cocked his head;
Paused for one brief moment—then

"I'll have to ask my wife," he said.

ERICA H. STUX

RUNNING COMMENT

Don't be overly optimistic in the early laps of the rat-race, it just shows that you haven't been around much.

S. S. BIDDLE

LESSON FOR A BRIDE

There was a young bride
Who wanted to please.
She used lots of wine
And very rare cheese;
She served rattlesnake meat
And octopus stew;
She always was searching
For something quite new.
Her spouse ate and drank
Right down to the dregs,
Then ran off with a gal
Who cooked ham and eggs.

LOUISE DARCY

LADY APE

Anthropoid Mother: Monkey wench.

RAYMOND J. CVIKOTA



RAYMOND J. CVIKOTA

"If that cheap good fairy doesn't leave more than a crummy dime this time, it's the last tooth I sell her!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



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